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Summary of News.

Monday, 21st December.

WITH a view to spread education in his State, His Highness the Thakore Saheb of Morvi has promulgated a notification that all children from the age of two years and three months to eight years and upwards should join the village schools; and parents and guardians are warned that any infringement of the above order would be severely noticed and proceedings taken against them for disobedience of orders.

DURING the present year the trade between India and Tibet has recovered with astonishing rapidity. The figure for the year, so far, is seven lakhs, whereas in the first half of the past two years it had shrunk to about three lakhs. In the case of both Tibet and Nepal the trade is mostly one of imports into India. Of course the trade of Nepal is much greater than that of Tibet, the latest returns for the year being 128 lakhs of rupees, of which eighty-five lakhs are set down to Bengal and forty-three lakhs to the North-Western Provinces.

THE Emperor William has announced at a public banquet that he has bestowed the rank and title of Count on General Von Caprivi to signalise the passing by the Reichstag of commercial treaties with Austria, Italy and Belgium. His Majesty in making the announcement lauded in the warmest terms the political capacity of the Chancellor.

THE new Parnellite organ which has been started in Dublin publishes the following programe of the party:—Home Rule, reform of the land laws, reinstatement of unjustly evicted tenants, the executive to depend upon an Irish Parliament, which is to have control of the police and the appointment of Judges.

SPEAKING of Mr. Pantula Chentsal Rao's appointment to the Viceroy's Council the *Pioneer* says:—"He is fifty-nine years old, entered the Madras Government service as clerk in the Nellore District Court in 1851, became tahsildar in 1857, and after serving through various grades of the Uncovenanted Executive Service was appointed sheristadar of the Board of Revenue and subsequently Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery, from which office he retired four years ago, when he was elected a Fellow of the Madras University and appointed additional member of the Madras Legislative Council. He was afterwards offered by the Maharaja of Mysore a seat in the Mysore State Council, which he accepted and still holds. In Madras Mr. Chentsal Rao is respected as a native of sound judgment, ripe experience and uncompromising honesty, and his advice has often been sought by the local Government."

THE latest returns from the District officials in Upper Burma show that the few days' rain which fell during the last week of last month, did considerable good in several of the districts, such as Pakokku, Myingyan, Minbu and Magwe. In the last-named, for instance, Mr. Todd-Naylor writes, the paddy is slowly ripening, and the crop will be much fuller owing to the late rains. Generally speaking, these reports indicate, that while the grain stocks in the Upper Province will require for some time to be supplemented by imports from Lower Burma, and relief works must be continued on a more or less extended scale in many of the districts until the harvest, the prospects are less gloomy than they were. The distress is severe; but there appears to be no danger of its assuming the horrible forms which follow a true famine.

THE Governor of Jummu has been dismissed. On the evening of the 14th the Deputy Governor of Jummu relieved the ex-Governor, and by the morning train of the same day the ex-Governor left to see the Resident. Two charges of bribery are said to have been filed against him and trial at once commenced. More charges were expected to be made. With regard to the dismissal of the Governor, Colonel Prideaux, the Resident in Kashmir, says the Lahore paper, requested the State Council by telegram to suspend action until he had seen the file of the case, and had expressed his views on the resolution.

Tuesday, 22nd December.

THE Maharaja of Patiala has given half a lakh of rupees for the foundation of twelve scholarships in the Punjab University, to be called the Albert Victor-Patiala scholarships, in commemoration of the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor to the Punjab.

A WOMAN named Mila has been sentenced to death by the district court of Pazarevac in Servia. This woman has for ten years been the terror of North-Eastern Servia. In 1881 a reward of 200 ducats was offered for her capture, two years later 500 ducats were offered, and in 1890 the promised reward was increased to a thousand ducats. She had a band of devoted Haiducks with whom she committed her robberies. She never went about otherwise than in a man's dress, with all her weapons in her belt and a rifle over her shoulder. Young, handsome and a perfect markswoman, she was the idol of her band. She had a lover named Petrovitch who fell ill some time ago, and whom she nursed with devotion in a cave on the Roumanian frontier. Her people told her in good time that she was watched and must fly for safety; but she refused to abandon her sick lover. After a fight with the gendarmes, two of whom she killed, she was captured. In the court she spoke for over an hour in her defence, and when sentence was given listened with indifference.

LORD Hartington presided at a dinner given to Mr. Goschen by the Scottish Liberal Union Club in Edinburgh. Having, in proposing his health, warmly praised Mr. Goschen's independence and the services he had rendered to the country by joining the present Government, he alluded to the possibility of Liberal Unionists and Conservatives acting together under a common leadership, and said the administrative successes of the Government could not be denied. As to the prospects of the party, he said that the bye-elections furnished them with no cause of despondency. Those who had the means of forecasting the probable results of a General Election assured him that, whilst they might lose seats in the rural districts they would, at least, hold their own in the great towns and manufacturing districts, and that there was no likelihood in a new Parliament that the Unionist majority would disappear. Mr. Goschen, replying, urged that it was the business of Unionists to expose the artifices by which that imposture, the Newcastle programme, was being foisted upon them. He felt no timidity regarding the results of the General Election, believing they would be able to convince the electorate of the justice of their cause. But should there be a majority preferring promises to performances the contest would not be at an end. A new stage of combat would have been opened and they would defeat any Bill which menaced the integrity of the Empire.

THE immunity enjoyed by Upper Burma from the income-tax has evidently not very long to continue. The Chief Commissioner plainly considers the time fully ripe for the application of the tax already, and only the fact that the whole system of taxation in the new Province is under consideration, postpones its introduction. The Chief Commissioner's remarks point to the probability that the "thathameda," a legacy from the indigenous fiscal system, will be abolished, and that a land tax with a license tax on small traders and shopkeepers similar to the *pandhri* of the Central Provinces, will take its place. 'If this suggestion is adopted, the introduction of the income-tax with a view to the taxation of large non-agricultural incomes will form a necessary complement to the scheme.' In Lower Burma, too, the tax, hitherto confined to towns, is to be extended through the districts generally.

THERE was a falling off in exports in the rail-borne traffic in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for the past official year. The imports on the other hand much increased. The decrease in exports, amounting to some 34 lakhs of maunds, occurred principally in cotton, wheat, linseed and rapeseed to the ports, in rice to the Punjab and Rajputana, and in gram and other grains, besides wheat and rice, to Bengal and the Bombay Presidency. The increase in imports on the other hand, amountiug to some 78 lakhs of maunds, is explained by a larger import of grain from Bengal, the Punjab, Rajputana and the Central Provinces.

Wednesday, 23rd December.

THE Government of India in the Foreign Department will take no steps to nominate a financial officer of the Kashmir State, awaiting the receipt of Mr. Logan's report. The pay and status of this officer have to be determined.

AN Indian Army circular, which has recently been issued, notifies that the Secretary of State for India has approved of officers of the Indian Army, who are qualified, being permitted to proceed to Russia from India for the course of study required to qualify them as interpreters. An officer who receives the necessary permission must leave India for Russia in May or November, so as to be on the same footing as officers who go there from England. He will go *via* Persia, or such other route as may be approved, at his own expense, and then go to London for examination. The officer passing successfully will receive a gratuity of £200, with a certain allowance for travelling expenses. The rules prescribe in detail the steps which an officer must take to procure the special permission to go to Russia, and the position of officers who have successfully passed through the course.

AN English correspondent writes:—"On hypnotism one cannot choose but speak. It is in the air. It is everywhere. Men and women are performing strange tricks at theatre for all the world to see. Chosen committees of medical men—who know no more of the subject for the most part than other men—stand by and look on Miracles are reported from private houses. Marvels and miracles are whispered about at tea-tables. The old talk of an hypnotic anæsthetic is revived. In fact, we are going in for a revival of the old mesmeric-magnetic business which ran through the world forty or fifty years ago and forty or fifty years before that. One remarks about it for the two previous visitations—that everybody was attracted by it; that everybody talked about it; and that everybody dropped it after a while, either afraid of the unknown power or suspicious of imposture. I have read a great deal that has been written and published concerning the former outbreaks of hypnotism, and I have long since come to the conclusion that there is an unknown force which deserves to be taken out of the hands of ignorant people, and to be made the subject of continual experiment and investigation by men learned in the brain."

"YEARS ago," the correspondent continues, "conversing with one who was in a small way both conjurer and mesmerist, I suggested that a man who was both to a highly skilled degree might persuade the world of everything. To this he agreed. I made a note of the idea and afterwards wrote a novel, whose hero was a mesmerist, conjurer, and impostor. The power explains a vast number of the so-called miracles of the Middle Ages. They were ages of faith; a little of the mesmeric power—which a man might have without ever knowing it—went a long way. Moreover, it explains the miracle of oratory, of persuasion in writing or in speech: its possession is genius. One man speaks with all the force he can command. The people yawn and are unmoved. Another says exactly the same words, and the people laugh and cry. The mesmeric force is everywhere. The poet, the actor, the dramatist, the novelist—who succeeds—has it. They call it genius, but it is the same mysterious power which makes a witch the terror of the village; which helps the performer on the stage to do with his subjects what he pleases. Suppose the scientific examination of this force to enable the whole world to possess it and to use it. Heavens! We should then be all poets, musicians, actors, orators. We should destroy pain—uot disease—when we pleased, and as long as we pleased. Fancy going off into mesmeric sleep when the tooth-ache begins! We should command matter and remove mountains and—nay, one must stop. The imagination must be restrained. One thing, however, we may note. We should command in others, and be so ruled in ourselves, the exercise of love and charity, peace and good will, towards each other and all the world."

IT is expected that during Xmas week important meetings of the Sanatan Dharma Sabha will be held at Jullundur and Hoshiarpur. It is probable that the Raja of Mandi will preside at the Jullundur meeting.

THE Royal Crown of England is valued at £120,000.

Thursday, 24th December.

MR. STEAD, in the Christmas issue of the *Review of Reviews*, tells a thrilling sailor-story bearing on the subject of apparitions at the moment of death :—

"A great gust of wind seized the half-slackened main-top sail, and sent it fluttering into fragments. At the same moment the ship reeled nearly on her beam ends, and, above the howling of the gale, we heard a sudden cry of despair; I was horrified to see an apprentice, [illegible], sent whirling headlong from the masthead into the sea. Even yet I can see the look of agony stamped on his upturned face, and I can hear the very tones of his heart-rending cry, 'Oh! Lucy, Lucy,' as he disappeared for ever in the darkness below.

"After the storm abated, the captain made a careful note of the exact time of the occurrence, the position of the ship, and the other particulars. He seemed struck at my mention of the exclamation I had overheard falling from the poor fellow's lips as he clutched in vain at the yielding air.

"'Ah,' he said, 'that must have been his sister, Lucy V——, to whom he was greatly attached.'

"The rest of the voyage passed without incident and as soon as the ship arrived at Liverpool I made my way to the train which was to take me to Manchester.

"I was walking idly along the platform when I saw the face of an old gentleman who, with a young lady on his arm, was elbowing his way through the crowd. His resemblance to our lost mate was so striking that I stood and looked at him. The young lady's eyes happened suddenly to meet mine. Instantly she gave a violent start, uttered a low scream, and exclaiming '—Oh, look, there's the face of my dream!' stared at me as if fascinated. Her companion gently rallied her, and half led, half carried her to the nearest waiting-room. As he passed he begged me to come with them and handed me his card.

"When we were alone that old gentleman explained that the sight of my face had reminded his daughter of a very peculiar and unpleasant dream, to which she still persisted in attaching importance. He said: 'At the present moment, indeed, we are on our way to discover if the owners of my son's ship have received any news of its arrival.'

I said, 'I am an apprentice of the C——, and have but lately left her lying in the harbour.'

"Then," the young lady cried, "I must be right. It must be true. 'Twas that man's face I saw grin at him as he fell. I saw Joe's ship in the midst of a fearful storm, and him clinging to the slippery shrouds. A bright flash seemed to pass before my eyes, and I saw him falling backwards into the sea. I saw your face in the momentary gleam, and I woke perfectly terrified to hear the sound of my own name—'Lucy! Lucy!'—whispered in my ears.'

"The expression of my face must have conveyed but too well the meaning of my silence.

"'My God,' cried Mr. ——, 'is it true, Lucy? Is he dead?'

"I stammered—'Too true, sir. Yes! every word of it. I was beside him at the moment, and even tried to save him.'

"On comparing notes, we found that the dream took place the very day, allowing for the difference in longitude, even the very hour when the accident occurred."

Now at all the sort of gossip which the world loves to hear, is that of Scott. In these days, indeed, one hesitates to hold it up before a world little disposed to reverence. Declining to allow his daughters, who had watched long and were fatigued, to be aroused, Scott, when dying, said to his son-in-law—Lockhart, I may have but a minute to speak to you. My dear, be a good man—be virtuous—be religious—be a good man. Nothing else will give you any comfort when you come to lie here."

THERE is no country in the world that has given such free scope for the development of the powers of women as America. There educational opportunities are now practically alike for men and women. There are at present in that country 297 colleges for arts and sciences, empowered by law to grant degrees, thrown open for women, containing 25,000 students. Four of the largest colleges are educating 2,000 students. Women are allowed the greatest freedom. In some of the Colleges and Universities the graduate boards out where she pleases, finds her own washerwoman, arranges her own hours of study, exercise and sleep, chooses her own society, clubs and church. Politically the American women have even greater privileges than her English sisters. Twenty-three States have conceded the principle of woman suffrage by allowing women voters in school elections. In some States they are allowed the vote on liquor licenses.

THE *Behar Herald* writes:—"The Zemindar community of Behar is grateful to their brethren of the British Indian Association for standing by them at this hour of danger to the classes interested in land in this Province. The resolution adopted at a recent meeting that a representation should be made to Government by the Committee of that Association on the subject of the proposed Cadastral Survey for Behar, has given immense satisfaction to all of us; and we hope that as the zemindars of Bengal and Behar make a united stand against the proposal, the local Government ought to give due weight to their views before it takes any further action in the matter."

Friday, 25th December.

ACCORDING to the *Pioneer* the following would appear to be the history of the affair on the Gilgit frontier :—

The Hunza and Nagar Chiefs, hearing that a military road was about to be constructed from Gilgit to Chalt, which, though in Kashmir territory, commands the road debouching from Hunza, resolved to attack the working parties. They accordingly collected their fighting men and advanced westwards along the Hunza river, with the intention of capturing Chalt Fort. Lieutenant-Colonel Durand, as stated a few days ago, forestalled them, and threw reinforcements into the Fort. He had apparently with him two mountain guns, the Gatling recently sent up from the Gullies, a detachment of the 5th Gurkhas, the Kashmir Imperial service regiments stationed at Gilgit, and his small personal escort of sepoys belonging to the 20th Punjab Infantry, together with a few Bengal Sappers and Miners under Captain Aylmer. The total strength of the column is not given, but there were at Gilgit only some 300 sepoys belonging to the Indian army, the garrison being mainly of three regiments of Kashmir Imperial Service troops, each 600 or 700 strong. In all probability the force assembled at Chalt on the 1st instant would not exceed 1000, owing to the great difficulties of transport along the route of thirty miles from Gilgit to Chalt. Four miles east of the latter place is the village of Nilt on a small plateau. It belongs to the Nagar Chief, and is one of five small villages on the southern bank of the Hunza river between Chalt and the town of Nagar itself. In that part of the world each village has a mud fort with walls about fifteen feet high and flanking towers. They are generally placed on an eminence and very strongly built, being sufficiently large to accommodate all the inhabitants. As the tribal gathering at Nilt would doubtless have increased had there been any inaction on the parts of our troops at Chalt, Lieutenant-Colonel Durand appears to have made up his mind to act on the offensive and to drive the tribesmen from their position.

THERE is a house standing in Hamburg which is constructed throughout of paper. It was erected last year, and is being used as a hotel. This unique building has been rendered absolutely fireproof by the application of chemical solutions which are in themselves incombustible, or which prevent any extended combustion of the otherwise inflammable materials with which they are associated.

THE *Indian Witness* noting our remarks that glimpses of high life in England are at times to be obtained through the Divorce court, says: As we read the words we regret the unfortunate fact that generally the only inside view given of high or low life in England or any other country is that particular variety which is displayed in some one or other of our law courts. If the officers of the law could occasionally be authorized to expose to public view the ordinary life of one of the great number of English homes, high or low, that are entirely free from those elements that have brought into notice the private life of the Countess of Russell, our Hindu and Mahomedan friends would probably modify some of their ideas of English life. The suspicion that the Natives of India really take these unfortunate homes that are turned inside out in the police or divorce courts as the samples of our civilization is a most painful one and yet there is groun[illegible] for supposing that quite a number of the educated men of this country have this impression of us. The relation of this question to Mission work is one that demands serious attention. Is it strange that Hindus hesitate to admit our zenana Missionaries into their homes when their idea of a Christian home is taken from the records of a divorce court?"

AT THE only way the *Witness* continues, in which the evil can be corrected is to give the Native community the opportunity of witnessing so far as possible the reality of Christian family life. Among Indian Christians the work may be partially done by giving them the freest possible access to our own homes that they may see the life that passes there. Another aid will be found in some biographical works and more especially in such works of fiction as give a correct view of English home life. Books like George Macdonald's *Sir Gibbie*, *Barbara*, or such a story as *Barbaston of Marchbrook*, which appeared in the *Sunday Magazine* two years ago, will give our Native friends a picture of family life vastly nearer the average of English homes than the glimpse of life retailed to us by the *Hindu Patriot*. We make the suggestion for the consideration of missionaries, especially those who have the preparation of literature, whether English or Vernacular. While we are attempting to give correct presentations of Christian doctrines to the people of India, let us bear in mind that nothing will be so likely to recommend those doctrines to the favourable consideration of the people, as a true exhibition of what Christianity and Christian civilization have really done for the homes of Christian lands. Such an exhibition will certainly be welcomed by the people of India.

Saturday, 26th December.

MR. Balfour, in opening the Glasgow Junior Conservative Club, said that the Government had carried out two principles in their policy towards Ireland: the first being the maintenance of law and order, without which liberty was but an empty name, and the second was the improvement of the material condition of the Irish people, especially that part of the Irish people who dwelt upon the inclement and inhospitable orders of the Atlantic Ocean. These should be the guiding principles of every Government and every party towards Ireland, as indeed towards every part of the United Kingdom. To these principles the Government would still remain faithful, and he did not anticipate that they would become less necessary in the future than in the past. As a statesman living at Westminster, in dealing with the Irish problem, he believed that, whatever the future shall bring forth it would never bring forth Home Rule for Ireland.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Amritsar:—"There is no reason to doubt that the entire people of the Punjab are greatly indebted to Lord Lansdowne for restoring the Maharajah Pertap Singto his former position and power. In spite of the intrigues and plots of some selfish and evil persons, the machinery of the State is working with perfect smoothness. It seems unlikely that there will be any European appointed in the State, nor will there, for the present, be any necessity for the Resident's intervention in the administration. A good story of His Highness was told by a friend the other day. Maharajah Pertap Sing, it appears, was asked by one of his favourite and faithful attendants what His Highness would do in the event of invasion by the Russians, to which he pithily replied:—Well, I have already placed at the disposal of the Paramount Power all the resources of Cashmere for war against any of its enemies.' The fact that the ruler of the chief Sikh State in India has made common cause with the English in such event will carry considerable weight at St. Petersburgh."

THE *British Medical Journal* says:—We have the best authority for giving an absolute denial to the statement circulated this week, alleging a continued failure of Mr. Gladstone's health since his late attack of influenza, and alleging a state of feebleness as the cause of his approaching visit to Biarritz and the Riviera. A precisely opposite state of things exists. Mr. Gladstone is, we are able to state, in an exceedingly and indeed marvellously vigorous state of health; and far from being enfeebled, he is in a high state of physical vigour and mental activity, and in very high spirits. He did not suffer in the least from fatigue after his great oratorical effort at Newcastle, and was indeed fully authorized and approved by his physician, Sir Andrew Clark, in making another speech on the next day. There is not the slightest ground for any allegation of failing health.

IT appears a Parsi lady from Lahore has appeared as a public singer in London. The London correspondent of a contemporary writes: "I learn that a Native Indian lady who has been for some time past studying under Mr. Sims Reeves will make next week her *début* here as a public singer. She is Mrs. Langrana, and she is a daughter of Mr. Sorabji, of Lahore. Mrs. Langrana intends, I believe, to return to India to teach singing and also to appear there as a public singer. One of Mrs. Langrana's sisters, Miss Sombji is at present a student at Somerville Hall—the "Girton College" of Oxford—where the higher education" is imparted to young ladies on the Bank of the Isis.

Princess Victoria Mary Augusta Louise Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes, the bride-elect of Prince Albert Victor, is the eldest daughter of Her Royal Highness Princess Mary Adelaide, second sister of H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge, and His Serene Highness Francis Paul Alexander, Duke of Teck, and was born on the 26th May, 1867. Princess Mary is, therefore, twenty-four years of age, while her cousin and fiance, His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence is twenty-seven.

THERE is a singing tree in the West Indies, the music of which is supplied by the action of the wind on its leaves. These latter have a peculiar form which is effectual in entrapping the winds and making them vibrate so as to produce varying tones. When the trade winds blow across forests of these trees, a constant moaning of *mid*, *ge*, or other full or half tones is kept up, which in the still hour of the night has an extremely weird effect. There is also a musical tree, a species of acacia, in the Soudan.

IT is estimated that the population of Hunza does not exceed six thousand, that of Nagar being about the same. The residence of the Mir is a fort perched on a hill that dominates the whole valley, on an elevation of 8,000 feet. It is approached by a single road, but is within artillery range of the Nagar bank of the Hunza River. The population of the State is almost entirely confined to the narrow valley of the Hunza.

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1891.

"DOWNFALL OF THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION."

SPEAKING on the motion of granting a house-a lowance of Rs. 500 to Mr. Lee, the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, Sir Henry Harrison admitted that Mr. Lee was appointed mainly on his recommendation. We said as much when the appointment was made, and we were roundly abused for making unworthy insinuations. What unworthy insinuations there could possibly be in making such a plain statement as that, we failed to perceive. Unless there was anything in the manner of making the recommendation, there was nothing which Sir Henry Harrison could be ashamed of, and his friends who took offence at our remarks did him great injustice in assuming that Mr. Lee's predecessor was influenced by considerations other than those which would benefit the Corporation. But let that pass.

It is useless to discuss now the part which Sir Henry Harrison had taken in getting Mr. Lee appointed. Sir Henry admits that he in a manner assured his nominee that the Commissioners would soon be satisfied with his work, and they would raise no objection in giving him an allowance of Rs. 500. He little thought at the time that the Commissioners would show any independence of judgment with regard to Mr. Lee's allowance. Sir Henry Harrison had found them very pliable during his own *regime*, and he naturally hoped that they would not change their nature all at once. He thought that if they showed any recusancy, he could soon influence them by his persuasive eloquence. Of course, Sir Henry took it for granted that Mr. Lee had given full satisfaction to the Commissioners, and he never stopped to inquire whether his assumption was well-founded. How could the Commissioners refuse to give the proposed allowance to a Chairman who had "fully satisfied their expectations?" Such a refusal, he thought, implied a moral obliquity which the Commissioners could never be guilty of. Well, if they did refuse, after he had pointed out their plain duty in this matter, then all that he could say was that 'the present set of Commissioners were all interior men, who had no sense of their duty, and they were utterly incapable of carrying on the duties of Self-Government. The honor of Calcutta was in their keeping. They ought to secure and do their best to raise the reputation of the office of their Chairman. This could only be done, he was firmly convinced, by raising the salary of his nominee. If they failed to give their vote in Mr. Lee's favor, then they would be taken as persons of less and less note, and they would have before them the prospect of the gradual downfall of the Corporation. These were words, which, coming from the mouth of Sir Henry Harrison, had a terrible significance. So long as Sir Henry Harrison bore the burden of Atlas upon his own shoulders, there could of course be not the slightest apprehension of the dreadful calamity so clearly indicated by the speaker. Now the danger was imminent, and there was only one way by which it could be averted—and that was by giving a house-allowance to his nominee.

Some of the Commissioners dared to refer to the difficulty about the financial position of the Corporation. "If there was such difficulty," said the speaker, "it was caused by the action of the Commissioners themselves in fixing the rate for the current year at 19½ per cent. instead of 22 per cent. One of the greatest dangers to a Corporation of this kind, elected as the majority of the members were by popular suffrage, was the constant tendency towards degeneration. There was always the danger that any one who might make himself a little popular would be safe of election, and the tendency would be that the more popular men would come in, and probably many of the Commissioners. who had deserved best at the hands of their constituents by their superior qualifications, would be driven out by younger men who knew best how to please the popular ear. Was it clearly the fact that the new Corporation did not contain the same number of men of ability and note in the town as there were before? And there would be at each election great danger of more inferior men coming in." All honor to Babu Narendra Nath Sen for protesting against these remarks. He justly said that they were "insulting to the Commissioners," and all right-minded men would agree with him in thinking that the remarks made by Sir Henry Harrison did imply an insult. We are surprised that the Commissioners did not with one voice call the speaker to order. They should have one and all spoken out their minds, and should have shown to Sir Henry Harrison that in spite of the suicidal policy by which the last Chairman systematically kept out the best men from the Corporation, there were still some men left who could stand their own ground, and could tell the truth at all hazards. They should have told Sir Henry Harrison that the Corporation had mainly to thank him for the dearth of talent in the Municipal body. No man of position with a grain of self-respect in him would consent to merely register the decrees of the head of the executive. The days of official autocracy have not yet passed away, and men of status and influence and ability prefer to keep away from positions where they could be insulted or reduced to cyphers by their own officers. *Apkewastes* are the most serviceable men who can be foisted on the Municipality, and the Corporation is full of them—be it said to the eternal shame of of hood-winked electors and the powers that be.

THE LAND INDEBTEDNESS COMMISSION—III.

WHEN the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Bill was under the consideration of Government, Mr. (now Sir Raymond) West, who was then a Judge of the Bombay High Court, criticised it severely; and when the amending Bill of 1881 was sent to the Court for opinion, he strongly condemned the Act which had then been in operation for a year and a half. Mr. West pointed out in plain and emphatic terms that "unless the general opinion was wholly mistaken, the most conspicuous consequences of the Act had been to cast the money-lender from his place by means of a one-sided remedy, which has extinguished credit by making the ryot irresponsible. The whole class of those who furnished capital to the cultivator have, with a very few exceptions, closed their business, and except where retained by the hope of recovering some portion of the money due to them, or by imprisonment at the suit of their own creditors, they intend to leave their district. Where the money-lenders have bought land or lent on mortgage, an early retreat is impossible, but their former function is no longer performed." As regards the ordinary ryot, Mr. West did not hesitate to say that the legislation which was designed to foster due credit had simply extinguished it. He also pointed out the demoralising effects of the Act upon the borrowers, who were "directly and pressingly invited to dishonesty," and the Courts, which "were not merely invited to do injustice, but compelled to do it." Mr. West observed:—"The statistics of the Court show conclusively that the idea of recovering debts from agriculturists through legal proceedings has been abandoned in despair. From 36,000 the suits in the Deccan Districts fell in one year to less than 12,000, and of these only 2,000 were suits against agriculturists." Mr. West's observations fully supported the position we had taken up in these columns in regard to this one-sided and unwise piece of legislation. After carefully revising each provision of the law, he did not hesitate to say that "the best amendment of the act would consist in its total and immediate repeal."

It was only to be expected that Mr. West's out-spokenness in critising the Act would bring upon him the displeasure of the Government he served. But when the papers were submitted to the Secretary of State, Lord Hartington, who was then at the head of the India Office, directed that the points mentioned by Mr. West should be carefully kept in view and that as soon as sufficient experience had been gained, the Government of Bombay should report their definite opinions in detail on the charges brought against the measure by him. Thereupon the Bombay Government undertook a special enquiry into the working of the Act, which was entrusted to Mr. Woodward a young Assistant Collector. The report submitted by this officer was commented upon by Messrs. Pollen, West, Ranade and Sir Theodore Hope. The results of Mr. Woodward's enquiry clearly proved what was only to have been expected, that agriculturists had been very ready to take advantage of the facilities for bringing redemption suits, which were afforded by the Act, and by the remission of stamp duties in connection with such suits; and that the money-lenders complained that when they had obtained a decree it was impossible for them to execute it. Even the Bombay Government was constrained to admit that "in the great majority of cases injustice is distinctly done to creditors in the matter of execution of decrees and agreements." They wrote in their despatch to the Secretary of State:—"Being unable to touch his debtor's immoveable property, which term practically includes his crops, and being also unable to threaten him with imprisonment, a creditor can only execute a decree upon his debtor's inclination for the satisfaction of his claims, even when reduced to strictly equitable proportions." But the measures which the Bombay Government proposed to take with a view to remedy the admitted grievances of the money-lenders in this respect were practically useless. They were of opinion that the Relief Act should be so amended as to place on the Civil Courts the duty of determining whether a judgment-debtor had made every reasonable effort to pay the dues decreed against him especially when the payment had been made easy for him by an order to pay by instalments; and that should a Civil Court find reason to believe that reasonable effort had not been made it should pass an order for execution. But the mere passing of an order for execution would not do any good when imprisonment for debt was abolished; serious obstacles were thrown in the way of sale of immoveable property and the decree-holder was practically prevented from attaching his debtor's goods and chattels. The Act no doubt provided that the ryot's land should be managed by the Collector for the benefit of the creditor; but this provision, it is admitted, had been a dead letter. And the reason is clearly explained by Mr. Pollen, who says:—"Under a system of petty holdings the ryot has no surplus lands, and derives no surplus produce over and above what is necessary for the support of himself and his family, and it is only the *surplus* lands that the Collector is empowered to manage for the benefit of the creditor. The ryot who possesses surplus land does usually figure as defendant in a debt suit, and if he does so figure, the ordinary law, with the help of an instalment decree, suffices for the realization of the creditor's due. In such a case neither creditor nor debtor would relish the idea of the Collector's management." So the provision which relates to management of the ryot's land by the Collector for the benefit of the creditor, although it looks excellent on paper, is of no practical use. The only cases in which the provision can be successfully worked are those in which a solvent agriculturist taking advantages of the privileges of freedom from arrest and from his land being seized in execution, distinctly evades the payment of a judgment-debt; and such cases are very rare. In order to enable the reader to realise fully how the Relief Act reduced decrees to mere waste paper, we may mention the fact that its insolvency remained in operation simply because, as pointed out by Mr. Pollen, it conferred so many other privileges and immunities on the indebted agriculturist classes, that there was hardly any necessity of having resort to the extreme measure of seeking relief by insolvency. This fact is so significant that it hardly requires any comment.

Lord Kimberley, who had succeeded the Marquis of Hartington as Secretary of State for India, in replying to the despatch of the Bombay Government, admitted that the money-lenders have been injured by the passing of the Relief Act, and that it was imperative that they should be treated with justice as regards the recovery of debts. The Bombay Government had proposed to make changes in the Act with a view (1) to empower the Court to sell the land, cattle and implements of husbandry of any agriculturist against whom a decree or decrees have been passed, under which an amount is due exceeding twentyfive times the assessment of the whole land occupied by him; (2) to declare that standing crops are not immoveable property within the meaning of the law; and (3) to provide that under certain circumstances the Court may order that the judgment-debtor be arrested and imprisoned. Lord Kimberley agreed with the Bombay Government that some additional facilities were required for the recovery of amounts decreed as due; but of the three proposals set forth above his Lordship strongly objected to the first which, he thought, would take away from the Deccan ryot a protection which is given everywhere in India by the Code of Civil Procedure. The second proposal was rejected because Lord Kimberley was not prepared to modify one of the fundamental principles of the Act so as to authorise the sale of land except where specifically pledged; nor would his Lordship accept the third proposal, to permit imprisonment when the judgment-debtor had not made a reasonable effort to pay. The Secretary of State merely agreed to legislation being undertaken for the purpose of removing standing crops from the protection given to immoveable property, which he considered the framers of the Act had not intended they should possess. The amendments in the law approved by Lord Kimberley were carried out in 1886; but the provision removing standing crops from the protection given to immoveable property did not, it is admitted, work successfully.

Four years ago Lord Cross, who had succeeded Lord Kimberley as Secretary of State for India, asked for a special report on the working of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. With the object of complying with this requirement, the Bombay Government ordered an enquiry and entrusted it to Mr. Woodburn. The report submitted by this officer was forwarded to the Government of India in June of last year for orders. The then Civil Members of the Bombay Government—namely, Lord Harris, Sir Raymond West and Mr. J. G. Moore—were unable to agree as to the conclusions to be drawn from the enquiry, or as to the practical measures to be undertaken. Mr. Moore was strongly of opinion that the Relief Act is of the greatest benefit to the agriculturists, and he advocated its retention unchanged where it is at present in force, and its extension to other districts. Sir Raymond West, however, condemned the Act root and branch as he had done in 1881, and contended, on the authority of facts and figures contained in Mr. Woodburn's report, that the measure had not only done no good whatever, but had left the ryots in a worse position than that in which it found them. Sir Raymond, it must not be forgotten, expressed himself an ardent advocate of the purpose which the Act was designed to serve—namely, the protection of the cultivator against the money-lender. Lord Harris took a middle course and supported the Act in principle, with some important modifications, and its extension, so modified, to other districts.

THE BEHAR CADASTRAL SURVEY.

IN a Resolution published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 16th December last, we have been supplied with an account of what the surveys and records-of-rights in some large estates under the Court of Wards had cost and the returns which they had produced to the landlords. Four such estates have recently been surveyed and settled, *viz.*, the Churaman, Maldwar, Shankarpur and Srinagar-Banaili Wards' Estates. The main results of these operations are intended to prove to those who have opposed the proposed Cadastral Survey in Behar, that such operations are in the main beneficial to both landlords and tenants.

The mehals comprised in the Churaman Estate are situated entirely in the Dinagepur District, and instead of forming a compact tract of country, contain villages which lie scattered about the District. The total area of the estate, as ascertained by the survey, is 169,936 acres. The financial result of the operations was, we are told, that a considerable area was recovered from the wrongful possession of other zemindars, and an additional rental of Rs. 4,621 or about 3·8 per cent. of the entire rental was obtained chiefly from lands thus recovered. The cost of the operations amounted to Rs. 89,154, or 8 annas and 4 pies per acre, which is admitted by the Resolution to be a rather high rate and is ascribed to the scattered nature of the estate. The Settlement officer, in speaking of the benefits of the operations to the Zemindar, says that an increased rental is not the only gain to the landlord; that there was formerly no such thing as a complete rent-roll for any of the mehals; that in the landlord's books and papers the areas of tenants' holdings were conspicuous by their absence; that the landlords had no idea of the quantity of waste lands, and how much of that again was culturable and how much unculturable; but that now all these details have been definitely ascertained and recorded. The Record-of-rights, we are further assured, will give the landlords every facility for effecting a legal enhancement of rent in the future. As regards the tenants, the same officer observes, the settlement may be said to have opened their eyes. They have, it is believed, for the first time understood what their legal rights and status are, and how these have been safeguarded by the settlement. The ryots there are said to have shown a keen and intelligent interest in the settlement proceedings. The litigation caused by the survey is estimated at 105 petitions being registered in the Settlement Officer's office. Of these, 84 were disposed of summarily, and 21 were tried as suits under Sec. 107 of the Tenancy Act.

The mehals constituting the Maldwar Estate are situated in the two districts—Dinagepur and Purneah. They also do not form a compact block, but contain villages which lie scattered widely apart from each other. This estate, according to the survey, contains an area of 93,082 acres. The total cost of the survey and record-of-rights was Rs. 60,751, of which Rs. 36,113 were incurred on survey and Rs. 24,638 on settlement, the rates per acre being 5 annas 10 pies for survey and 6 annas 2 pies for settlement. The high cost incurred is set as due partly to the scattered positions of the villages, and partly to the irregular supply of coolie labour, the obstruction of ryots, the passive opposition of neighbouring zemindars, the inexperience of newly-trained amins, and the insufficient support accorded to the latter by the officials of the estate. There are in the estate 13,163 rent-paying holdings, occupied by 9,421 ryots. Fair rents were settled in 6,217 cases by the mutual consent of the landlord and tenant, the result being an enhancement of Rs. 4,508, which was obtained by assessing excess land found in the possession of the ryots. The total new rental for the entire estate is Rs. 95,714, so that the enhancement is 4·71 per cent. on the previous rental which was Rs. 91,206. The Settlement officer says that the operations were conducted without any friction or difficulty. We are told, however, that during the early part of the operations the tenantry showed indifference by their absence from the scene of operations, but that their attitude shortly changed to one of eagerness and hearty co-operation. There were altogether 1,243 suits and objections. Of these 495 were disposed of summarily, and the rest were tried by the Settlement officer in accordance with the procedure of a Civil Court.

The Shankarpur Estate consists of villages and parts of villages widely scattered over the Districts of Dinagepur, Bogra, Rajshahye and Malda. The aggregate area, as ascertained by the survey, is 157,802 acres, and the total cost of the survey-settlement was Rs. 1,31,729, of which Rs. 89,611 were for survey and Rs. 42,118 for settlement, the rates per acre being 7 annas and 3 pies and 3 annas and 6 pies respectively. The high cost of the survey is here also attributed to the scattered nature of the property and some casual causes. The financial result has been the enhancement of the rental of the estate by nearly 19 per cent. on the previous rental. The Settlement Officer reports that no obstruction or friction was met with in carrying out the settlement operations. But we are also told that soon after the commencement of the present survey, all the ryots appeared to have been frightened to think of the probable enhancement that might result from the new mode of survey and settlement under the Tenancy Act, and under that impression several tenants filed *Istafanama* of their holdings in the Munsif's Court and were willing to run away. We are assured, however, that these illiterate people came afterwards to understand the true nature of the proceedings and were apparently satisfied. Altogether 2,265 petitions were filed, of which 918 were summarily settled, and the remaining 1,347 objections were tried as civil suits by the Settlement officer. Of the latter 866 objections were regularly contested.

The Srinagar-Banaili estates are situated in the Districts of Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Purneah, Maldah and Darbhanga. The villages in Bhagalpur and Monghyr lie in comparatively compact blocks, but the estates in the other districts are much scattered. The total area surveyed was 447,189 acres, but the total area settled was only 426,652 acres, the remainder having been excluded from settlement on account of lands belonging to other proprietors having been found interlaced with the surveyed area and for other reasons. The total cost of the operations was Rs. 2,94,328, being 10 annas 6 pies per acre on the total area surveyed. The causes which have rendered the settlement expensive and protracted are reported to be the scattered nature of the estates, disputes as to the standards of measurement and as to existing rents, the larger number of objections and petitions filed, and some minor matters. The Settlement Officer reports that the nominal rent-roll has increased from a demand of Rs. 4,68,328 to Rs. 4,69,498, or there has been on the whole an increase of Rs. 1,170, equal to an increase of 23 per cent. There has been a real increase of Rs. 22,020, that is to say, the total rental, after striking out the disputed claims, has been increased by that sum in consequence of the settlement. The record and settlement of rents has performed two functions: firstly the rent-roll has been cleared of disputes. and, secondly, an increase of Rs. 22,020 equal to 4·7 per cent. has been obtained. The Settlement Officer goes on to say that the value of the settlement is not to be tested by the increase of rent obtained. This increase is small. The real object of the settlement was to clear up the confusion in the rent-roll and to enable the rent to be punctually collected. Apart from the adjustments of the rent-demand, the records will enable the estates to prevent unauthorised encroachments and additions to holdings. As regards the attitude of the parties concerned, the Settlement Officer reports that the attitude of the landlords and tenants towards the Survey and Settlement was varied. At first there was considerable opposition from both sides. The local agents of the estates gave little help and the ryots were naturally afraid of the proceedings. Matters improved afterwards and the large number of objections filed is a proof of the interest taken in the proceedings. The only instance of organised opposition occurred in the Akbarabad pergunnah of the Malda District. There was a considerable amount of litigation in this estate. The total reached so high a figure as 3,852. There were also about 20,000 petitions of objections against entries in the record, and these were all heard and the entries corrected, if necessary, on the spot.

The above-mentioned accounts can be taken to be fair specimens of how surveys and settlement operations would be carried on and what benefits they are likely to confer. There is nothing in these reports to show that the want of the

proposed cadastral survey is felt by either the landed proprietors or the tenants. On the contrary, it is evident from many statements to be met with in these reports that their general attitude, until strong official influence is brought to bear upon them, is one of opposition. Viewed in this light, the measure is wholly unnecessary and uncalled for. Nor has its necessity been made out under Sec. 101 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, for the conditions mentioned therein have not occurred, the materials now available in the Zemindari records being amply sufficient for State and other purposes. It is further evident from the above-mentioned accounts that the measure is calculated to increase litigation to an extent which will be very expensive and harassing to both landlords and tenants. The costs of the surveys and settlements will be enormous, and, considering the general indebtedness of the Zemindars and tenants of Behar, will entail a heavy burden on both of these classes. Besides these costs, there will be an annual expense of several lakhs of Rupees to maintain and preserve the records, which otherwise would be wholly useless, and that would be an additional tax on the landed interests. The facts given in the Resolution conclusively show that the benefits obtained will not at all be commensurate to the expense incurred. Disguise the fact howsoever we may, it is established beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Srinagar-Banaili estates have gained about Rs. 1,200 per annum by an expenditure of about *three lacs* of Rupees, if not of nearly double the amount. The zemindari records giving detailed accounts ought to be published to show the truth of our assertion. It can further be urged that the present is a most inopportune time for carrying out the measure contemplated. There is great scarcity, if not actual famine, in Behar caused by a partial failure of the crops. This will seriously tell upon the landlords and tenants, and it will be some years before they will be able to get over the ruinous effects of several successive bad seasons. But the greatest evil which the measure is calculated to produce is that it will tend to disturb seriously the peaceful relations which now exist between the landholders and tenants of these provinces.

The Committee of the British Indian Association contemplate addressing a memorial to the Government respectfully pointing out the above-mentioned evil consequences of the proposed survey and settlement and humbly praying that the orders passed by His Honor regarding the measure be withdrawn.

THE HYDERABAD DIAMOND CASE.

THE Special Jury trying the above case brought in, on Tuesday last, an unanimous verdict of 'not guilty' on all the counts of indictment resulting in the acquittal of the accused. The admitted facts of this case as elicited in this long trial are as follow:

The accused Mr. Jacob, a Jew by nationality, carrying on a pretty large and extensive business in jewellery and precious stones at Simla, was in the habit of selling his goods to His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad through the intervention of one Mr. Abid, a confidential servant of His Highness, who charged a rather high rate of commission on all sales effected through him. Early in the month of March a contract was entered into between Mr. Jacob and the Nizam for sale by the former to the latter of the famous diamond for 46 lacs of Rupees. It was arranged that Mr. Jacob was to get the diamond out from England to India for inspection of the Nizam, and that in order to enable Mr. Jacob to get hold of the diamond the Nizam was to make over 23 lacs of Rupees to Mr. Jacob, and that a large sum of money by way of commission was to be given to Mr. Abid by Mr. Jacob. In the month of April Mr. Jacob entered into a contract with Messrs Kilburn & Co., Agents of Messrs Pittar Leverson & Co., for purchase of the diamond upon certain terms for £1,500,00 equivalent to 22½ lacs of Rupees. In the month of June the diamond was brought out to India from England and a sum of Rs. 23 lacs was deposited with the Bank of Bengal to the credit of the Nizam's minister, Sir Asman Jah, and transferred to the credit of Mr. Jacob. Mr. Jacob out of this sum paid to Messrs Kilburn & Co. 22 lacs, he having previously paid to them the sum of Rs. 50,000, out of his own funds, and received the diamond from Messrs Kilburn & Co. On the 21st of July Mr. Jacob went to Hyderabad and produced and showed the diamond to the Nizam, and the Nizam rejected the diamond on the ground that under the terms of the contract entered into between him and Mr. Jacob he had the right of exercising his option of *passand* or *napassand*. On the 27th July Mr. Jacob instructed Messrs. Kilburn & Co. to remit £150,000 to the owners of the diamond in England, and it was remitted, but at that time the rate of exchange being 1*s.* 5*d.* there was a balance in the hands of Messrs Kilburn & Co. of a sum of Rs. 1,77,000 and odds in favor of Mr. Jacob, which was handed over to Mr. Jacob by Messrs. Kilburn & Co. It will be seen from the above that on this day Mr. Jacob out of the 23 lacs of Rupees received by him from the Nizam had already made a profit of Rs. 50,000 *plus* Rs. 177,000, making together Rs. 227,000. On the 26th of July Mr. Jacob was asked to refund the deposit money of 23 lacs of Rupees, but the money not being refunded, His Highness the Nizam, under legal advice, took criminal proceedings against Mr. Jacob in Calcutta.

According to the summing up of the learned presiding Judge the criminality of Mr. Jacob turned upon the question whether at the time when the sum of Rs. 23 lakhs was transferred to his credit in the Bank of Bengal there was an express *trust* created in Mr. Jacob that that sum of money should be held in his name until the diamond was approved. The evidence upon this point consisted of communications between Mr. Jacob and Mr. Abid which were so elaborately, clearly and exhaustively summarized and placed before the jury by the learned presiding Judge that we do not think that it is necessary for us to refer to them here. All we can say is that such evidence was of the weakest kind upon which a criminal prosecution of this description could be started or based. This prosecution, we understand, has cost His Highness such a large sum of money as would make even a Prince of the position of one who can afford to spend 46 lacs of Rupees in the purchase of a diamond, *feel*. We wonder if the legal advisers of His Highness in this matter can satisfy their conscience regarding the propriety of instituting these criminal proceedings. Probably it will be said that the result of these proceedings has been the securing of this diamond for the purposes of the civil suit which has already been instituted on His Highness' behalf; but we feel bound to ask, "Might not the same result have been attained if a civil suit had been in the first instance instituted in the proper tribunal?" We sympathize with His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad for the great waste of money which he has been led into by these ill-advised proceedings. It is stated that Mr. Jacob intends to start something like a breach of contract case, and a case for false and malicious prosecution is said not to be improbable.

GENERAL BOOTH AND THE SALVATION ARMY.

"General Booth is Coming"—are the words with which the ears of the Calcutta public are being familiarised for some time past, in anticipation of the advent of the great man who has chalked out a new method of procedure for dealing with human misery and suffering welling out from the perennial fountain of human sin. The idea of fighting against sin and suffering is not new, indeed, is as old, we might say, as the dawn of reason and conscience in this world. But the idea of a Salvation Army, of actually organizing and martialling it in regular battle array, and of carrying on effectual war operations against humanity's greatest enemy, is certainly new, for which the Rev. William Booth, or as he delights to call himself General Booth, and his late beloved wife must have the entire credit. In the eye of the world, there is a certain ludicrousness in the very name and manner of the Salvation Army which must for a considerable time to come stand in the way of their usefulness. But if, as we believe, they have really the good of sinning man at heart, they richly deserve success. The success already achieved is remarkable, and promises to be the earnest of still larger success. We are told that when the new name of Salvation Army was assumed, there were about 87 stations where operations were being carried on by a force of about 150 leaders or evangelists. "By 1882 the members had twice doubled, 340 stations or corps were daily worked by 800 officers. Foreign extensions were also about this time planned and carried about; France, America, Australia, each receiving attention, and work started; that is, increasing in a marvellous way, and with results that have called forth encomiums and recognition from all classes, including the Governments themselves." What makes us sincerely glad at this success is the fact of their having united social reform with religious enlightenment. Their social scheme is eminently practical, in asmuch as it is based upon "work" and "discipline," and does not encourage waste of money and energy in mere sentimental charity—one of the most potent causes of the ruin and degradation of the people of this country. We would only wish that the philanthropic "General" and his "Army" keep their attention directed more to the object they have in view, than to the fantastic forms in which they are now carrying on their operations.

The great secret of the success of real reformers is their deep sympathy. Unless one is animated by this most potent talismanic virtue, one should not entertain any hope of reforming his kind, however earnest and strong his convictions may be. The great exemplar of humanity, whom the Salvation Army follow, had this divine attribute in the highest degree. But how he has been misunderstood and misrepresented by those who profess to worship him, is abundantly shown by the history of Christianity. We hope the Salvation Army have profited by this history, and are prepared to follow the high example of Jesus in all their doings. They must be eminently and really catholic in their aims and objects. They must aim at reforming man and not in merely technically Christianizing them. They must remember that ignorance of the laws of the material creation is the most prolific mother of some of our darkest sins, and they must accordingly direct their energies towards the dispelling of that ignorance. This is the point on which we wish to lay particular stress for all philanthropists who have at heart the good of humanity at large, and for all our patriots who wish in particular the elevation and regeneration of our unfortunate country. We hope we are not startling bigotry and so-called orthodoxy for asserting, for we have the authority of our own Shastras for it, that the greatest sin of our people is forgetfulness of the Great Cause of Causes from which most other sins have flowed as from a natural source, and this greatest of sins can only be remedied by a knowledge of the Physical Sciences. Let him hear that hath ears to hear, let him that hath a spark of reason in him understand what we have thus not hesitated to give out in the earnestness of deep conviction.

1891 A. D.

THE old year, reckoned by the method of our Rulers, No. 1891, is nearly over: another new year is on the threshold. Shall we rejoice or mourn? Those who look upon life as a burden have cause to rejoice: we are nearer the grave or the cremation ground by another twelve months. Those to whom existence is an enjoyment will perhaps shed tears for the same reason. Like all sublunar things, therefore, it is an event of a mixed character. Our tears must blend with our smiles.

But this is rather philosophic: the result of that blessed or cursed feature of our mind, which often leads it to look ahead. Why can we not conform ourselves to the present and the *present*

alone? There can be no doubt that to most of us existence is a pleasure: the very fact of existence and all that it implies. The pleasures of sight and hearing; of touch, taste and smell; the interchange of human smiles and even of tears. Add to this, the sense of the supernatural and the perennial wonder that it breeds. Is not all this worth possessing? The common sense of mankind says—"yes". Then let us part in friendship with the blessed old year wherein we enjoyed all these—and let us welcome the blessed new year, in the firm belief that it will be as pleasant to us as its expiring predecessor. Let not the unpleasant thought of the grave cloud the equinamity of our mind. Let us dismiss regrets; let us equally dismiss anticipations of a gloomy character.

Have we lost any friends in the year that is closed? Surely we have. And ought not the thought to make us feel unhappy? Oh cursed memory! Why must those thus look behind on things left past? Oh blessed memory! let us thank thee for enabling us to live again in the mind with those that are gone. But come thou, Oh radiant Goddess Hope! comfort us with the assurance that we shall meet again in that blessed region of light, where man stands face to face with God.

We care not at this moment to sink our mind to the level of a politician; we do not hold the pen to-day to write a political prospect or retrospect, nor is it our business now to sit down and write a history of the old year. Let us, in the midst of our busy bustling dusty lives, at a moment when we have arrived at one of those mile-stones, which indicates our progress on the high road of Time, ponder on broad humanity, and think and write like a man. Let us try to forget that we are such and such by profession; that in order to earn our bread—you are a lawyer, I am a cultivator, and yonder man is a trader. Let us forget the Penal Code, the plough and the godown for a moment. Let us realize the soul in its house of flesh, and let us ask, why do we live at all? From morning to morning, from year to year—the stream of life flows onward and onward. Do we know why we lived in the past? And do we know why we wish to live to-day and exist till to-morrow?

While entering upon the New Year it is good for us to provide ourselves with some sort of answer to these questions. Every one must try to answer it, according to the light that is in him, but answer he must—if he is to have a conscious idea of living,—of being something different from a stream of momentary chances, turning him now on this side, now on that. We are not disposed to sermonize, and make an attempt to solve the problem of life for each and every one of our readers. But for ourselves we feel disposed at this moment to utter a prayer to the author of our life in the words of a very old hymn—none the less beautiful for its great age and sublime for its simplicity the hymn that Gotama addressed to the "All Gods":—

"To the Worshipper of Truth—may the "winds be sweet; may the streams of water "carry sweetness into him; may the cereals be "sweet unto us; may the Dawn and the Evening "be sweet; may the broad Earth yield nothing "but sweetness; and may the Sky also be "sweet, and may the Sun shine sweet upon us; "and may our Cows be sweet also." May God sweeten our existence, by sweetening the common stock of human happiness. And may we in the words of another Vedic hymn—"move "on enjoying and gladdening life and singing "the praise of Him who created this life for us." May the New Year find us a step nearer to God that is Truth!

Latest News and Notes.

THE Nagpore Congress assembles to-day and its deliberations will last three days. The last batch of Bengal delegates left on Friday last and most of them have gone by the Bengal Nagpur route, along which the necessary refreshment arrangements were made. The draft resolutions having been published beforehand, the work of the Subjects Committee will be comparatively easy and business will be got through quickly. The number of delegates expected is large and all the necessary arrangements for their reception have been complete for some time.

THE Christmas rejoicings this year waned a good deal as it appeared to us. The business houses in the Old Court House Street and Esplanade made their usual display of wares, illumination and bunting, but it fell short of the standard considerably lowered as it had been of late. Somehow or other popular rejoicings in India whether connected with Mahomedan, Christian or Hindu festivals have been steadily on the decrease in recent times—a fact that the social economist has to take due note of. As for ourselves we have been painfully impressed with philosophy that such falling off inculcates, for it bodes no good.

THE Lieutenant-Governor thinks that the duty of collecting and recording vital statistics cannot properly be entrusted to municipalities in Bengal. It demands, in his Honor's opinion, more continuous care and attention than Municipal Commissioners are ordinarily willing to give to it. Sir Charles Elliott has, therefore, arranged to transfer the work of registration to the town police from the 1st of January next. The amounts thus saved are be applied to the advancement of primary education.

THE Calcutta Fine Arts Exhibition was opened on Wednesday, His Excellency the Viceroy having had a private view on Tuesday. The quality of the pictures shown is declared to be far better than last year, and the rooms in Council House Street which are centrally situated are well suited for the exhibition.

AS a sequel of the Diamond case in the Criminal Courts, a civil suit was filed on behalf of the Nizam against Mr. Jacob in the High Court on Tuesday. An *ad interim* injunction was issued by Mr. Justice Trevelyan, restraining Mr. Jacob, pending the hearing of the case, from in any way dealing with the Imperial Diamond or with certain Currency Notes of the value of one lac and Rs. 49,295 respectively. It is claimed on behalf of the Nizam that he is entitled to the diamond in lieu and satisfaction of so much of the twenty-three lacs as was applied to its purchase.

THE Dacca Jury Bribery case will be taken up on re-assembling of the High Court on the 4th January after the holidays. The Original Side Appeals will also be then up. The missing records of the Dacca case have been found though the mystery as to how they disappeared has not yet been cleared up.

SATURDAY'S *India Gazette* announces the appointment of the Hon'ble Dr. Rash Behary Ghosh as an additional member of the Imperial Legislative Council, in the place of Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter. Dr. Ghosh has given entire satisfaction in the Bengal Council and his promotion to the Supreme Council was but natural. His great success as a Vakil of the High Court deservedly brought him forward and we congratulate him upon the honor that Lord Lansdowne has done him.

SOME important changes in the timing of the Mail and other trains on the East Indian Railway will come into force from the 1st of January next. The up mail from Calcutta will leave at 8-57 Railway time and reach Umballa at 9 A. M. and Kalka at 11-47 A. M. The down train will leave Kalka at 2 P. M., arriving at Delhi at 8-38 P. M. The speed on the Delhi-Kalka line will be raised to 30 miles an hour.

Indian Engineering says:—"It is said to be quite on the cards that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will be appointed Honourable Member in the Public Works Department. Sir Charles Crosthwaite is said to be most undesirous of returning to the Indian service, if he can obtain something suitable in England. His leave expires in January."

BABU RAJANINATH RAY, M. A. Assistant Comptroller General, Calcutta, will, it is expected, be appointed the Financial Adviser of H. H. the Maharaja of Baroda, on a salary of Rs. 2,000 a month, for three months.

DENSE fogs prevail throughout England. Traffic is seriously delayed, and numerous casualties are reported. For ourselves we have as much cold here as one could wish. Our nights, mornings and evenings and even days are very cold, which, it is to be hoped, will tend to lessen illness, of which we have had a good deal of late.

A TELEGRAM from Mozambique reports that the Portuguese expedition, bound to Nyassa, has been destroyed about midway on the journey, through an explosion of the whole stock of gunpowder while encamped. Sixty men were killed on the spot, including two Europeans; one hundred and seventy were injured, including Captain Contiuho and other leaders of the expedition.

IT is gratifying to learn that the condition of Prince George of Wales continues to improve. His medical attendance has ceased.

FIGHTING in Hunza still continues. Nilt Fort, the Hunza stronghold, was attacked and captured on the 2nd instant, chiefly by a brilliant action on the part of Captain Aylmer, and of Lieutenants Boisragon and Badcock, who with three Sappers and a few Gurkhas stormed the fort in face of the enemy's fire, blew up the main gate with gun-cotton, and drove out the defenders. Colonel Durand was wounded by a bullet in the groin, Captain Aylmer wounded in the hand and leg, four Gurkhas killed, one Dogra and one Sikh gunner slightly wounded. On the 3rd instant some Sangars across the nullah opposite the fort were shelled, and the enemy was driven out. Lieutenant Badcock was wounded in the arm, Lieutenant Gorton in the leg, one Sikh gunner killed, several Gurkhas and Dogras slightly wounded. The disabled officers are being sent back to Gilgit. It is reported that the Hunzas are desirous of coming to terms.

THE gloom at Madras seems to be in no way abating. Speaking at Guntakul Lord Wenlock said that he regretted to hear of a considerable amount of scarcity among the agricultural portion of the community and he had come down there on purpose to have a consultation with the Collector and Mr. Clogstoun, and they had been able to draw out such a scheme as might meet the necessities of the case as far as they go. He was glad to find, however, on the whole that the Anantapur district was not likely to be affected so generally as he was afaid from what he first heard. It might be, no doubt, that in certain portion of the districts distress would prevail, but he hoped that the arrangement which had been made would give the labouring classes work which would enable them to provide for the bad time before them.

A FRENCH diplomatist in Japan is said to have writen a letter, describing the impressions, made in his mind by a recent visit to Vladivostock. He says that England and Russia must meet some day. They are in each other's way. In Asia, the Transcaspian Railway will place the Muscovite army within a few days' march of the northern frontiers of India; while the port of Vladivostock, for which a special fleet of cruisers is to be constructed, will act as a check to Hong-Kong by allowing the Russian flag to show itself freely in the Yellow Sea. Work of

every kind is being pushed forward with activity in the new citadel and fortifications. Barracks for 10,000 men and arsenals for military and naval stores are being constructed. Military roads are being developed with unprecedented rapidity. Two large repairing docks are almost completed.

IN spite of rumours to the contrary, it is believed that Mr. Trevor Plowden will be confirmed, after his officiating tenure is over, as Resident at Hyderabad.

THE Maharaja of Holkar has done a generous act. Like his predecessors of yore, His Highness has, in honour of the birthday of the heir-apparent to the throne, granted remissions to the extent of about seventy thousand rupees to the ryots. Each farmer holding a piece of land that yields annually Rs. 50 or less to the State, and for which the farmer stands indebted to the extent of Rs. 100, gets the benefit of this beneficent concession. The famine-stricken people of Rajputana and the local poor have received clothing, worth Rs. 1-8, to protect themselves from cold.

MR. MACKAY, the new Sheriff, with Mr. Orr, his Deputy, took their seats at the Sessions on Monday last, and formallly entered upon their duties.

HIS Honor Sir Charles and Lady Elliott paid a visit, on Saturday before last, to the Calcutta Pinjrapole, at Sodepur. His Honor and party met with a warm reception, and an address was read to which His Honor replied in suitable terms. His Honor was taken all over the place where some three thousand animals are being taken care of, and expressed his satisfaction with the management of the Institution.

'IT is not often', says an English paper, 'that a new writer obtains such a "send off" as the *Times* gives to Lord Rosebery for his Life of Pitt. The book is said to show "literary gifts of a very high order"; to be "endowed with a fine literary instinct"; and "irradiated" with "incessant flashes of genial and kindly humour", and frequent felicities of epigrammatic expression. Moreover, it is brilliant, fascinating, terse, masculine, nervous, clear, articulate, penetrating, luminous, unprejudiced, broad, generous, humane, candid, serious, thoughtful, suggestive, instructive, entertaining, sympathetic, and kindly. This is discriminating criticism indeed! How does Lord Rosebery appreciate the praise bestowed on him by the leading English newspaper, we wonder.

THE following subscriptions have been received by Sir Monier Williams for the extension of his Indian Institute:—£200 from Bhagbat Singhel, £200 from the Thakore of Gondal, £100 from the Maharaja of Travancore, and Rs. 1,000 from Maharani Sarnamayi.

IT is refreshing to see an authority like the *Times* declaring that the Income-Tax is wholly foreign to the genius of the people of India. It goes on to say:—"Its imposition has been forced upon the Indian Government by the clamour in this country for the abolition of import duties. These duties afforded the only means of taxing the wealthy minority, but commercial greed in this country, masquerading as zeal for the Indian consumer—practically the wealthy and untaxed minority aforesaid—obtained their repeal." The import revenues had to be sacrificed to please Manchester and this among other things necessitated re-imposition of the Income tax. The *Times* would do us a great service if it could acquaint the British public with some home truths like this.

MR. MANOCKJI RUSTOMJI is dead. Painful as the announcement is in extreme, it will hardly come as a surprise to those who knew how heroically the grand old man had been struggling, with different ailments for some time past. One of the foremost Parsi merchants of his time, Mr. Rustomjee had long settled in Bengal and took kindly to the province and was always and intimately connected with all movements tending to its welfare. He was honored alike by the people and the Government and had bid welcome and farewell, it is said, to fifteen Viceroys and Governors-General. We take the following biographical sketch from the morning papers:—

Mr. Manockji was the grandson of Mr. Cowasji, the head of the once famous Calcutta house known as Rustomji, Cowasji and Co. He was born in Bombay in 1815, and was educated at the Elphinstone School. From early life Mr. Manackji Rustomji was engaged in mercantile pursuits, having been for some years in China, and during his father's lifetime was largely connected with the commercial business which in those days was so actively and extensively carried on between Calcutta, China, and Bombay. His father's firm then owned a large fleet of opium clippers, engaged in the China Trade. In 1837, Mr. Manackji Rustomji came to Calcutta, and was admitted a partner in his father's firm, and he was settled down here ever since; and so great had always been the influence which he had established by his unblemished character, his undoubted loyalty, and his public spirit, that he was universally acknowledged as the head of the Parsi community of Calcutta, and as such he never shrank from the part that was expected of him in all public movements. His probity, impartiality, and sound judgment had won him the respect of all classes, and he was consequently very often consulted by his Native friends, among whom he successfully mediated in the settlement of their differences and disputes. Although of late and largely interested in business, he still maintained his connections with many Joint Stock Companies, in several of which he was a Director. Mr. Manackji Rustomii was a Justice of the Peace, and Honorary Magistrate and Municipal Commissioner both for the Town of Calcutta and its Suburbs. He was also Consul for Persia. He was the first Native gentleman who was ever selected for the honour of Shrievalty of Calcutta, which he held in 1874.

Eventful as his life was he died plain Mr. Manockji Rustomji. To his worthy son Mr. Hcerjeebhoy Manockji Rustomji and the bereaved family we offer our sincere condolence. The members of the Parsi community met at Rustomjee Cowasjee fire temple on the 25th instant to consider what steps should be taken to do honour to the deceased's memory. The following resolutions were adopted at the meeting—(1) That an expression of deep sorrow at the geat loss sustained by the Parsi community through his death and their appreciation of his life-long services be placed on record; (2) that a letter of sympathy be addressed to his bereaved family; and, (3) that some permanent and usefnl institution be established here in recognition of his worth and work.

LAST Wednesday's *Calcutta Gazette* contains a long resolution on the working of Municipalities of Bengal last year. The results were considered fairly satisfactory and the Lieutenant Governor says:

"On a general view of the year's work and bearing in mind the special difficulties which Municipal Commissioners have to contend with, especially when acting without the guidance and initiative power of an official Chairman, the Lieutenant-Governor considers that the record is fairly satisfactory. Almost everywhere the Commissioners appear to have made a genuine effort to do useful work, and the shortcomings which have been pointed out in the reports are such as might naturally have been expected from a body of gentlemen who have their own business to look after, and who, as a rule, have undergone no special training in the work of administration. The making and revision of assessments, the collection of municipal taxes, the checking of accounts, the supervision of conservancy establishments, and generally the maintenance of efficient control over out-door work, represent a considerable amount of personal labour, and demand close attention to a variety of details. It is in these points, rather than in attendance at meetings and appearances on public occasions, that the work done by Municipal Commissioners seems to admit of improvement. During his various tours Sir Charles Elliott has had frequent opportunities of discussing local requirements with the Municipal representatives, and he has always found them extremely ready to take advice and to adopt any reforms that were suggested to them. It seems to them, therefore, that a good effect would be produced if the Magistrates of districts and sub-divisional officers were to make periodical inspections of the Municipalities in their jurisdictions, and to submit notes of their inspections to the Commissioner of the division. A copy of such notes, with the remarks of the Commissioner, might afterwards be sent to the Municipalities concerned. In this way the Municipal Commissioners will get the benefit of the wider experience of the District Magistrate and the Commissioner of the Division, who see the working of manay Municipalities, and are therefore in a position to offer advice without interfering with the independence of the Commissisners. In the case of Municipalities at the head-quarters of districts, the Commissioner of the Division might himself occassionally inspect them, and in that case the Lieutenant-Governor would be glad to have a copy of the inspection note submitted for his perusal. Such notes would form a useful supplement to the Annual Report, which does not always contain sufficient information as to the working of individual Municipalities.'

IN the course of the Resolution Sir Charles Elliott regrets to observe that the Magistrate of Maldah reports "that while the elected Commissioners give much time and trouble to their duties the Commissioners nominated by Government displayed no interest in Municipal affairs. If this state of things continue the Magistrate should call upon these gentlemen to resign their offices and nominate more energetic representatives of Government." Without reference to the context, one should have thought that the Lieutenant-Governor was administering some wholesome advice to the powers that regulate the appointment of Government nominees on the Calcutta Corporation; for His Honor's observations apply to them with much greater force than perhaps to any other body of nominated Municipal Commissioners in the province. With a few honorable exceptions, such as Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, Nawab Abdul Latif Khan Bahadur, Babu Joy Gobinda Law, Rai Durgagati Bannerji Bahadur and some others, mostly natives, the nominated Commissioners never care to enter appearance except on special occasions and even then all their deliberations are confined strictly to voting, a state of things which does not attract Sir Charles Elliott's notice, perhaps, because the elected Commissioners mostly do their work so well and, perhaps also, because some nominated Commissioners like those we have taken the liberty of naming, do their work equally well. Perhaps Sir Charles would not care to go the length of calling upon these absentee nominees to resign, but they might just as well take the hint. And as the reconstitution of the Calcutta Corporation is fast approaching, the Municipal Department of the Bengal Secretariat that has had the courage of conviction to record an outspoken resolution like this, should give its conviction effect, by doing away with the useless no-bodies and by instilling fresh blood and vigour into the nominated body of the Commissioners, whose duty certainly is not to carry out the behests of the Executive. The Lieutenant-Governor has much more to do with these nominations personally than Magistrates in their Districts and we trust to see some improvement on the next occasion. With Sir Charles to look after the nominated Commissioners and the rate-payers doing their duty in the matter of the forthcoming elections, we may fairly expect to have a much better Municipal Board next year than we have at the present moment.

A NUMEROUSLY signed petition is about to be presented to the Viceroy, of which the following is a copy:

We the undersigned Natives of Bengal, and loyal subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress of India, beg to approach *Your Excellency* with this earnest request, that *Your Excelleny* will be pleased to sanction our being formed into a *Corps of Volunteers*, as a second or "Bengal Battalion" of "The Presidency Volunteer Rifle Corps" under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Sterndale, the Commandant of that Regiment: an officer whose long service experience, in India, and intimate knowledge and well-known sympathy, with our people, peculiarly fit him to undertake the task of organising the first Native Volunteer Corps in Bengal.

We are encouraged to prefer this request, from the fact that His Excellency the Commender-in-Chief of Madras has recently expressed his sympathy with the proposal to enrol Natives of India as Volunteers.

We are aware of no law prohibiting our enrolment; but there have hitherto been practical difficulties in the way of our admission into existing Corps; or of our being formed into separate Companies or Corps; which difficulties however do not arise from us, and which we are satisfied will disappear before one stroke of Your Excellency's pen.

The long roll which we forward with this memorial, will show that we are physically and by position and education well-fitted to perform the duties of Volunteer soldiers, and we are prepared to submit to all Rules and Regulations to which military service will necessarily

subject us; to all needful forms of discipline; and to render strict obedience to all orders, emanating from Government; the Military Authorities; and the Commanders and Officers set over us.

We make this application animated by a true and genuine devotion to the Crown, and love of our country; and having regard to circumstances which may unhappily develop themselves at no distant future, we long to be permitted to bear arms in the service of our Queen and Country; we feel this to be a solemn duty to the Crown and Government under which our native land has had so long a career of peace, security, and prosperity; we feel that our self-respect will be enhanced; and (if that were possible) our loyalty deepened, by being permitted the same privilege of fitting ourselves to take part in, and if need be, to die in defence of the Empire, which is enjoyed by all other sections of Her Majesty's subjects in India.

The Viceroy will, we are pursuaded, vouchsafe a patient consideration to the petition. The question of native volunteering is now within the purview of practical politics, since the support of influential officials like the Commander-in-Chief of Madras has been enlisted. Although there is no disabling law, facilities have not been afforded for organisation of a separate Corps and the existing bodies are unwilling to enlist natives as comrades, which is a practical difficulty of no mean magnitude. Since, however, a sufficient number of our young men are ready to enlist, as the above petition goes to show, there is no reason why a separate corps should not be formed, and reading between the lines one is pursuaded that the gallant Lieutenant-Colonel who is named as the commandant of the proposed corps, is not himself averse to the movement. Our young men have taken kindly to manly sports and they have shown themselves everyway fitted for volunteering duties. It would be a grievous disappointment to them not to have their legitimate and loyal desires properly encouraged.

WE are glad to welcome His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala to Calcutta. His Highness arrived in town on the 24th instant and is living at Alipur.

TOM Cannon, the Wrestling Champion of the world, has been defeated in India for the second time by a native *palwan*. The contest between him and Karim Ali, the crack wrestler of Jodhpur, who had been selected by the Maharaja of Kuch Behar out of twenty sent down by the Maharaja of Jodhpur, took place at the Fillis' Circus on Thursday last and was the sporting event of the season. The spacious pavilion was filled to its uttermost and the assembly was numerous as well as distinguished, including His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. Karim Ali proved more than Tom Cannon's match and was victorious in almost no time. The *Englishman* thus describes the event:—

On receiving the signal, the opponents came immediately to close quarters, and the Native by a dexterous movement succeeded in throwing Cannon on to his knees, a position from which he never recovered himself. The latter appeared indeed to be unable to obtain a grip of his opponent and the match although protracted to nearly ten minutes, by Cannon's defence, was practically decided during the first few seconds. Having his opponent virtually at his mercy, Karim Bux appeared in no haste to end the contest. After a considerable interval, during which no effort was made on either side, the Native, gathering himself together, attempted by sheer muscular strength to throw his opponent on to his back. In this first attempt he failed, and Cannon with a determined effort succeeded in engaging his opponent's neck, but the latter practically slipped through his hands and thus the only chance of retrieving the position was lost. Another attempt on the part of Karim Bux was defeated through the stubborn resistance of his adversary, who, however, secured the throw a minute afterwards with a movement which exhibited not only his great physical strength but bore testimony to his science and skill as a wrestler.

As might be expected imputations of unfair play and so on were made by some of the European spectators consequent upon so signal a defeat of their "Champion." But the Committee of Reference and the majority of the assembly declared that Karim Ali had won and fairly won. The Mahomedan athlite is said to be aged only 18 and is said to be by no means the best of the lot sent down from Jodhpur. This must be a great satisfaction to those who take interest in the development of athletics among natives and should impart a fresh impetus to the movement of popularising sports among our young men, though all or any of them need not be crack or champion wrestlers. Tom Cannon, who held his own in the civilized world, must have been considerably chagrined at his defeat. If Tom Cannon was the world's Champion the Championship has now undoubtedly passed to Karim Ali, and the insinuations of some of our contemporaries to the contrary are quite unworthy. Cannon himself is reported to have admitted that there could be no doubt that the best man had won.

THE *British Medical Journal* publishes a forecast of the report of the Leprosy Commission on the extent of leprosy in India. The amount and risk of contagion is declared to be much over-rated. There are, it is said, only about one hundred thousand cases, and the risk of contagion is rather more possible than probable. A great deal of evidence has been furnished to the Commission in favour of the contention that the disease is non-hereditary. It is considered unlikely that the Commission will make any drastic recommendations regarding the isolation or segregation of sufferers. In this view of the situation the following correspondence will prove to be of interest:—

(1) From Babu Omrita Nath Mitter, representative of the subscribers to the Permanent Memorial Fund, to Patrick McGuire, Esq., Secretary to the Leper Asylum Committee, dated No. 33, Mooktaram Babu's Street, Calcutta, the 21st November, 1891. Dear Sir,—As several enquiries have been made by the subscribers to the Prince Victor Permanent Memorial Fund, regarding the project for constructing an improved Leper Asylum in the vicinity of Calcutta, I shall feel much obliged to you if you will kindly enquire of the Honourrable President and inform me what steps it is proposed to be adopted in reference to the matter. I shall also thank you to let me know whether since the last meeting of the Leper Asylum Committee, held in December last, at which it was resolved to send a deputation to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, any other meeting was held, and whether any deputation waited upon His Honor.

(2) From Patrick McGuire, Esq., Secretary to the Leper Asylum Committee, to Babu Omrita Nath Mitter, Member, representing the Permanent Memorial Fund—No. 19, dated Calcutta, the 21st December 1891. Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 21st ultimo, and in continuation of my demi-official letter of the 1st instant, I am directed to inform you that the President had an interview with His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject, and that Sir Charles Elliott concurred in the opinion generally expressed that no practicable scheme could be proposed by the Committee until the report of the Medical Commission on leprosy has been made.

LORD RANDOPH Churchill has sailed for England. His Lordship's South African tours, which have been widely talked of in England and in fact in all parts of the civilized world, will have considerably furthered the interest of the East African Company.

AT a meeting of the Indian Uncovenanted Service Association, recently held in London, it was resolved on the motion of Mr. King, M.P., to request Sir Roper Lethbridge to confer with the local Committees of the Association in India and submit the grievances of the members to the Viceroy. Sir Roper left for India on Thursday.

IT has been decided to send a column out from Manipur to co-operate in the Kanhow country with a column to be despatched from Fort White. Orders have been received to send 150 Rifles under the British Officer, and the force will take with it six weeks' rations. Supplies will be sent ahead on to Shuganoo, three marches out of Manipur, and stored there in readiness for the troops who do not move till about the 5th January, as at present arranged.

THE Viterinary school and hospital are, it is satisfactory to note, shortly to be taken in hand. Sir Charles Elliott with Mr. W. B. Gwyther, of the P. W. D., went last Monday to Belgachia to view the site of the proposed Hospital. The party was received by Babu Sheobux Bogla, the donor of the land. His Honor was glad to see the spot and was highly pleased with Babu Sheobux for making over to the Government Rs. 30,000, besides land for the establishment of the Hospital. The last number of the *Calcutta Gazette* contains an interesting resolution on the whole question in which a Committee of Ways and Means has also been appointed. As soon as Babu Sheobux Bogla has completed his transaction for the purchase of the land at Belgachia, Government will issue a declaration to acquire a further plot of ground, which will make the total area of the estate some 7¼ bighas. The Hospital will be called as a whole "The Bengal Veterinary Institution." The School attached to it will be named, at the express desire of Babu Sheobux Bogla, "The Kenneth MacLeod Veterinary School," and Sir Dinshaw Petit's donation of Rs. 30,000 will be recognised by naming the main building, "The Sir Dinshaw Manockji Petit Veterinary Hospital."

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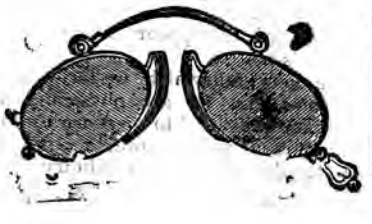

THE STANDARD COMPANY'S FUNDS have increased fifty per cent. during the last fifteen years, and now amount to upwards of Seven Millions Sterling. The business of 1890 was the longest in the history of the Company. Premiums moderate, conditions liberal. THOMAS LANG,—Genl. Secy., Standard Life Office. *4, Council House Street. Calcutta.*

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ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE AND COMPANY,

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WESTMINSTER.

OUR Theatres, native and non-native, have been very busy during the Xmas week. The Star, the City, the Royal Bengal and the Emerald all provided Christmas specialties for their constituents. *Basantasena* which is having a good run in the Royal Bengal is an admirable adaptation from the well-known Sanskrit drama *Mirchchakatik*, upon which the management deserves to be congratulated. The City Theatre is arranging to have its new pavilion in Beadon Street ready on an early date.

THE *Sadhana* is a first class monthly magazine, edited by Babu Sudhindranath Tagore of the Jorasanko family, the first number of which we are truly glad to welcome. The contributions are rich and varied, and there is an earnest of sustained efforts that is sadly lacking in other journalistic ventures of this description. We wish the new enterprise every success.

MESSRS S. K. LAHIRI and Company have published a "New Reader," compiled by Mr. R. N. Dey, M. A., which we think is well adapted for the lower classes of our schools. In preparing the little volume the idea that each piece should exhibit some noble virtues has been steadily kept in view. The Reader is very moderately priced.

SIR SPENCER WELLS, BART, a distinguished London surgeon, is at present in Calcutta. He has visited Ceylon and Madras and after staying for a few days in Calcutta, intends going on a visit to Darjeeling. He will also go to the principal places in Upper and Western India. Sir Spencer paid a visit to the Medical College, and the hospitals attached to it, and to the Dufferin Zenana Hospital on Wednesday.

GENERAL Booth and party arrived at Madras on Wednesday evening, and received an enthusiastic reception. General Booth said that the matter which principally concerned him here was the condition of the people. He had a strong desire to be able to do something towards helping them materially and morally. He found men all over the world were in many respects the same. He endeavoured to regard men from one standpoint regardless of race or colour. He urged his hearers, whatever their creed, to respect other creeds. They would find in most of them important matters in which they could agree. He had come mainly to see his own people. He believed in them, and they believed in him. After he had got information, he might be able to suggest some little thing that might be of some service to the poorer people of this country. The "General" arrives in Calcutta on the 8th January and his programme here is very full including an interview with the Viceroy and a torchlight procession to the Howrah Railway Station. Numerous meetings have been arranged and Town Hall tickets are being freely dispose d of.

WANTED.

FOR the District Board, Burdwan, a District Engineer on a Salary of Rs. 400, rising to Rs. 600, by annual increments of Rs. 25.

Applications for the post should be submitted to the undersigned not later than the 15th January 1892, in Sealed and registered covers addressed to the Chairman District Board, Burdwan and superscribed "application for appointment of District Engineer."

Each application should be accompanied by certificates and testimonials shewing that the candidate possesses the requisite qualifications as prescribed in rule 2 of the Rules published by Government, under date the 14th March 1887, under clauses (*g*) (*h*), (*m*) of section 138 Act III (B. C.) of 1885, and also by an envelope addressed and sufficiently for registration in which the certificates may be returned in the event of the application being unsuccessful.

If a Government officer is appointed, he will be required to pay the usual contributions towards his eave and pensionary allawances to Government.

BURDWAN
District Board's Office
The 1st Dec. 1891.

H. C. WILLIAMS,
Chairman, District Board,
Burdwan.

SOME FOLK TALES OF BENGAL.

II.

THE STORY OF GOOLAY BAKAULAY.*

Once on a time there lived a king who was very powerful and very rich, but unfortunately he was blind. He had seven sons. He was told by a Yogi that if his eyes were rubbed by a flower called Goolay Bakaulay, he would be able to see. The Yogi further told the king that a fairy who lived beyond the seas had that flower in her possession. All the sons wished to get that flower for their father. The youngest son who was looked upon as the genius of the family, said to his six elder brothers, "you first go in search of the flower; if you succeed in getting it, good and well; if you do not succeed, I will go." Accordingly the six elder brothers set out on their journey, and after a great deal of trouble reached the palace of the fairy who had the flower. The fairy was a great chess-player. Every one that went to her palace had to play chess with her; if the visitor lost the game, he was made a slave and kept confined in the palace. The six brothers played with her, and the fairy won all the games. The six brothers accordingly were made slaves and were kept confined in the palace. The king, queen and their youngest son were filled with grief to find that the six brothers did not return home, though many months had elapsed since they set out on their journey. The youngest son therefore resolved to go in search of his brothers, and of the desired flower.

After wearisome journeyings, he reached the land where the fairy lived, but instead of going at once to the fairy, he went to the flower-woman who supplied the fairy with garlands of flowers. The young prince saw the woman preparing garlands of flowers for the fairy. He said to her, "let me prepare the garlands to-day," to which proposal the flower-woman agreed. The prince accordingly prepared some garlands and gave them to the flower woman. The flower woman went to the fairy with those garlands. The fairy was charmed at the sight of the garlands, and said "What beauties these garlands are! Who made them?" The flower-woman replied, "My sister's son has come to me, he has made them." The fairy said, "bring to me your sister's son." This sister's son was none other than the young prince who had come in search of his brothers. The flower-woman accordingly took the young prince with her the next day to the fairy, whom they found playing chess with a merchant who had arrived at the palace. The merchant lost his game, was made a slave and detained in the palace. The fairy then said to the young prince, who was supposed to be the son of the flower-woman's sister, "will you have a game with me; my conditions are, if you lose the game, you become my slave, and remain confined in this palace; if you win the game, I become your slave and go with you wherever you take me." The young prince agreed to the conditions and began to play; and strange to say the young prince won the game. While the fairy was playing she now and then laughed when a flower dropped from her face. This flower was called Goolay Bakaulay. As the fairy had become the slave of the young prince, he determined to take her to his parents. A ship was accordingly made ready, and the young prince and the six brothers who had been made slaves, together with the fairy, all went on board the ship, and after a voyage of many months, reached their native land. Whenever the fairy laughed, the flower Goolay Bakaulay dropped from her face, and this flower was rubbed on the eyelids of the blind king, on which the eyes of the king were opened. They all lived happily together for many years.

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NOTICE.

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KALLYNATH MITTER & SARVADHIKARY,
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III.

THE STORY OF A PAPER-HORSE.

ONCE on a time an Emperor told his vizier that he wanted to know what progress the arts had made in his empire. The vizier accordingly issued a proclamation ordering all the subjects of the Emperor to bring to the palace their best workmanships. The palace soon became a sort of industrial exhibition. Amongst the things collected was a wooden horse covered with paper, which was said to have the power of flying in the air. The Emperor looked at this horse and asked if anybody would ride upon it. No one ventured to mount the horse. At last the son of the Emperor came forward, and said, he would ride. The moment he got upon the horse, it flew up high in the air, and went up, higher and higher every moment. The Emperor alarmed for the safety of his son, ordered the man who had made the horse to be arrested and kept confined. The Emperor's son while high up in the air, put one of his arms round the neck of the horse, and thereby turned a screw which made the horse descend gradually, after it had sailed through the air many thousands of miles, going over many countries. At last the horse alighted on the palace of the king of a distant country. The Emperor's son found himself near a large room in which he found a princess sleeping. He entered the room and saw a table covered for dinner. He sat down and ate a hearty meal. He also chewed *pan* and threw some of it from his mouth on the clothes of the sleeping princess. After doing this, he hid himself in one of the adjoining rooms. After some hours the princess got up from her sleep, and was hungry. She ordered her maids to attend on her. When the dishes were uncovered, it was found that all the dinner had been eaten up. They were all astonished. Who could have eaten up the dinner? Surely somebody must have come stealthily and eaten it up. The princess resolved to watch the next day and catch the thief. The next day, the Emperor's son came out of his little room into the dinning-room, and ate the dinner as on the previous day; and as he was throwing from his mouth a little of the *pan* on the clothes of the princess, she got up, caught his hand, and asked him who he was. The emperor's son told her how he had come there. The princess said, "my father always told me that I should get married to one who came from above; and as you have come from above, you and I must become husband and wife." The next day the king—her father, was in a jolly mood,—called to him all his children, and asked each of them, what he or she would like to have from him. When he asked the princess, what she would have, she said, "father you always told me that I should get married to a man who came from above, here is a man who has come from above. Let the marriage be performed." The king saw the prince, who told him who he was, and how he had come there. After a few days, the wedding took place with much pomp. After some time the prince told his Royal father-in-law that he would like to go home with his newly-married wife. His father-in-law agreed to the proposal. Accordingly, the prince and his wife mounted the paper-horse and in a short time reached the prince's home. The maker of the paper-horse, who was in prison all this time, was set free, and was largely rewarded for his invention. The prince and princess lived happily together for many years thereafter, and had children and grand-children.

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A CHEAP remedy:—Good advice.—The seges of all times and countries have said that it is better to be advised than to be praised. During great heat abstain from drinking too abundantly, and above all of iced alcoholic drinks; you lose your appetite and when the cold weather approaches you will be a martyr to affections of the stomach. If you want to quench your thirst without the risk of destroying your stomach, use Guyot's Tar. With a single bottle, you can prepare, if necessary, tar water enough to last for twenty days at least, you have also the advantage of fortifying the lungs, of purifying the blood and of strengthening yourself against colds and catarrhs.

Government Notification

Calcutta Gazette—*December* 23, 1891.

GENERAL.—Mr. C. Fisher, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Shahabad, is transferred to Backergunge, and is posted to the head-quarters station of that District.

Sergeant Richard Mytton is appointed to be Honorary Pay Master of the Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles, vice Captain M. Power, resigned.

Mr. C. Johnston, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, has been granted by her Majesty,s Secretary of State for India an extension of extraordinary leave for six months on medical certificate without pay.

Moulvi Ahmed, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Jessore, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector under Section 4 of Act VII (B. C.) of 1880 in that District.

The order of the 20th October last, granting fifteen days privilege leave to Babu Roy Brahma Dutt, Probationary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on Excise work Durbhanga, is cancelled.

Mr. W D Blyth Magistrate and Collector, Chumparun, is allowed leave for six days, under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 1st September 1881.

Mr. H G Cooke, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Hughly, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. C H Vowell, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Purneah, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Midnapore, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. A C Tute, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Dinagepore, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. G Stevenson. Officiating Magistrate and Collector Cuttack, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr, H. C. Williams, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Burdwan, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. F. R. S. Collier, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Murshidabad, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. G. E. Manisty, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Chittagong, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. H Savage, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Backergunge, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. H. A. D Phillips, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Mymensingh, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. J Posford, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Furridpore, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. G. G. Dey, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Tipperah, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr F. W. Badcock, Officiating District end Sessions Judge. Burdwan, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. E. W. Collin, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Rungpore, is allowed furlough for one year and eight months, under Article 340 (*b*) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 15th March 1892. or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it.

Moulvi Syed Mahomed, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Seldah, 24-Pergunnahs, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Rajshahye District, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved by Kumar Gopendra Krishna Deb.

Babu Khudiram Poddar, Sub-Deputy Collector, Ranigunge, Burdwan, is allowed leave for nine months, under Articles 264 and 369 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 16th September 1890.

Moulvi Shah Mohammed Azam. Sub-Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the Sitamarhi Sub-Division of the District of Mozufferpore.

In modification of the order dated the 17th November 1891, it is notified that the special leave for six months granted to Mr. J. Scobell Armstrong, C. S. under the order of the 14th April last, has been commuted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India to furlough for ten months.

Mr. W. Macpherson, C. S., is appointed to act, until further orders, in the third grade of Magistrates and Collectors, but will continue to be employed on his present special duty under the Board of Revenue.

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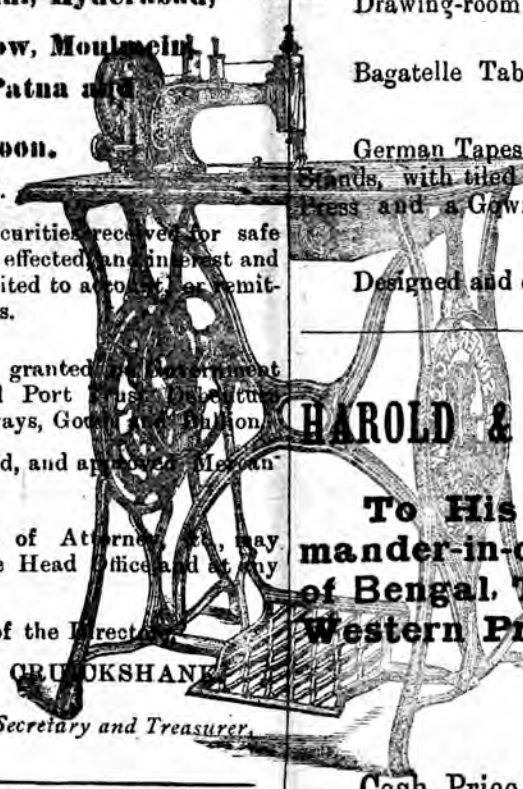

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The Commissioners of Calcutta will repay the Municipal six per cent Loan of 1871 on the 1st January 1892, the date when the Loan falls due. Debenture-holders are requested to surrender their Debentures at the Municipal Office on or before the 31st December 1891. Interest on the above Loan will be paid up to 31st December 1891, and will cease after that date.

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[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

London, November 12, 1891.

THE NEW UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

IT is not quite certain whether Sir John Gorst, the late Under-Secretary, has got a promotion or the reverse- in being shifted from his late post to the position of Financial Secretary to the Treasury. But at any rate it is pretty clear that Sir John while admitted to be one of the ablest men in the Government, has not the faculty of insinuating himself into office as many of his intellectual inferiors seem to have. In fact he seems to illustrate the theory laid down in his famous speech on the Manipur debate as to the favour shown to mediocrity by rulers, and their jealousy of independent ability. The Secretaryship of Ireland has gone to a man who has never been heard of until just lately for the present Parliament, and who is not known for brilliancy of intellect, but at the most for good business capacity. Probably such luminaries as Mr. Balfour and Sir John Gorst must revolve in more widely separated orbits than that of the leadership of the House and the Irish Secretaryship, though there was a time when both formed part of a small band of free-lances known as the Fourth Party, of whom Lord Randolph Churchill was the leader. A few years ago any one asked as to the political future of its members, would have been sure to have made a wrong forecast; and of them all Mr. Balfour would have seemed least likely to be so soon the leader of the House of Commons

Mr. George Curzon, the new Under-Secretary, is a very young man, his age being thirty two. He has had a distinguished career at the University and has already got a reputation in Parliament, if not as an *authority* upon Asian questions, yet as one who takes great interest in them; and that goes a great way in England. He has had at any rate the advantage of travelling in the East; and as he is one of those youngmen who do not err on the side of undervaluing themselves and their opinions and the importance of their views to their less favoured fellowmen, he has aired those opinions in books and letters. In fact he takes himself very seriously and studies blue books as only a man with a straw of the pedant in his composition can bring himself to do; and afterwards makes known the results with the kind of priggeshness which seems to accompany pedantry. But certainly his advantages have been many, and amongst them has been that of being Private Secretary to Lord salisbury. The appointment is not an unsatisfactory one. India is not likely to be much affected either one way or another by it; her destinies are hardly in the hands of the Under-Secretary; but the appointment is at least one which ought to be a good training ground for a statesman who aspires to know India. Mr. Curzon at any rate wishes to know. If he were not such a precocious blue-book-sort of young man one would hope that he would develop into a Statesman and an Indian statesman, and that his new post would be very profitable for him. The *Pall Mall's* remark upon the appointment is that the field in which his talents are to have free play is that for which he has prepared himself by his industry. 'Generally, if a man knows something of foreign affairs, he is appointed to the Home office; and as soon as he has come to know anything about the Home Office he is transferred to the Army or the navy. But Mr. Curzon has made India his speciality and the India Office is his reward.' Well, that may be so; but it is to be feared that there is too much of the College Don in Mr. Curzon. Peoples are not ruled well necessarily because their politicians could write encyclopædic chapters about their country's history, language, trade, commerce, roads, railways, industries, agricultural products and all the other of the blue book lore; not that a statesman can dispense with the knowledge of these things; only we cannot call a man a statesman on the strength of that knowledge. We think of another kind of man than the one who can 'get up' a subject and take a prize in it. There seems a little too much of the prize-getter about Mr. Curzon. There is a positive danger, too, lest a man like him, knowing he knows so much, should do more harm than good. Upon the way in which he is able to detach himself from his own cleverness must depend the estimate which we shall form of him as a statesman who can render service to India."

The *Saturday Review* in speaking of Mr. Curzon's appointment says:—"The appointment of Mr. George Curzon to the Indian Under-Secretaryship is a good one, and gives a great opportunity to a man to considerable talent. Mr. Curzon brings on his task knowledge of the subject, debating power, and generally sound views. His only known fault (which may be parabolically described as a tendency to exalt the Pragmatic Sanction unduly above its place among historical documents) may be cured or confirmed by office. In the former case he ought to have a really great future before him as a politician; the latter we will not antic ipate."

MR. CAINE'S REPLY TO LORD WENLOCK.

THE reply of Mr. Caine, to which I referred last week, has appeared since I wrote; and is thoroughly satisfactory and complete, founded, as it is, upon Lord Wenlocks own statements, and reports and returns from independent as well as official sources; and not merely upon information furuished by natives who, as Mr. Caine says, are always considered by Anglo-Indian oficials to be densely ignorant of every detail in their own country. Reuter had reported deaths from starvation in Chingleput and North Arcot among the villagers, who in some places were reduced to eating aloes; and that cattle were dying in large numbers from want of food and water. Lord Wenlock had said there were four cases which were authenticated of death by starvation in North Arcot. Mr. Caine says "I never said people were dying by hundreds ot *starvation*. I did say they were dying in consequence of *famine*. Any one who has read the official literature of Indian famine knows well enough that this sentence of Lord Wenlock practically admits the truth of my statement. Four authenticated cases, of death by starvation point undoubtedly to the stern reality of many more deaths by cholera fever, dysentery, and other maladies induced by starvation."

Moreover the official reports in July are quoted—the month of which his native correspondent spoke,—which enable Mr. Caine to put the effective question "If I am a liar, as Lord Wenlock says, what there are these official gentlemen who report to Lord Wenlock, that cattle are dying in the fields for want of fodder and water: that human beings are living on dead cattle, aloes, and prickly pear; that women are striving at the wells for scanty drops of water; that husbands are deserting their wives and mothers their children, and that cholera is spreading because the people are debilitated by insufficie t food? And what is Lord Wenlock himself? He said in his speech 'as regards the cattle in North West, the death rate is almost the same, though a little higher, than it was last year." And yet Lord Wenlock *must* have had the actual figures before him which show, for 1890, mortality 12,638, and for 1891, 22822.—Almost 80 per cent: and that is 'almost the same though a little higher!

As to the charge of harshness or severity in levying the land tax, he points out that, in spite of the undoubted distress in North Arcot, the whole revenue for the year had been collected with the exception of 22½ rupees; and every one of the total of 52,456 which according to the *Times* of 17th October was the number of those in the famine districts, had had his land tax screwed out of him by the Government. He quotes from Mr. Harding a Collector in the Coimbatore district the account of a ryot who had land paying 10 or 15 rupees kist. Last year he *borrowed* to pay assessment. This vear he sold something. Two rupees were still due which he could not raise. He had only one meal at mid-day during the whole day. He had nothing in his house, and the next day he would have to go to the relief work again to get good. This is a typical case says Mr. Caine; and he hopes when Parliament meets some member will move for a return of all the weekly official reports from the various famine districts. Mr. Caine concludes by saying that he will remind Lord Wenlock in the words of his friend, the Editor of the *Madras Mail*, that the Government of India are not protected from outside criticism; and that in their cloud laird of air—castles not even high officials can hope to find a castle high enough and remote enough to make public criticism of their public acts impossible.

THE QUESTION OF EGYPT.

"Perfidious Albion," for generation has been a phrase upon the lips of Frenchmen, and has been repeated with more or less emphasis by other than Frenchmen, to characterise the action of England in many spheres of foreign policy. At present we seem to be doing our best, or worst, to justify this evil reputation of ours in the attitude taken up by the Press upon the Egyptian question. The language used by Conservative Papers amount to an almost undisguised advocacy of the policy of holding Egypt for even without regard to the circumstances under which we went there and the terms and conditions by which we have hitherto always declared our occupation to be defined. Since Mr. Gladstone made his Newcastle speech this Egyptian matter has been the most important item in the programme of the Unionist Party. Home Rule is exciting little interest in England; and in Ireland itself not being but a confusion of ignoble squabbles is heard of which do not perceptibly advance or retard the question a single step. The general election so far as the Home Rule question is concerned, had come to be accepted in a spirit of fatalism by the Unionists, as about to result in their defeat. Yet hope was still left them that the re-introduction of Mr. Gladstone's bill would once more shatter his party and strengthen the Unionist cause. However the now famous allusion to Egypt by Mr. Gladstone and the wish that Lord Salisbury might see his way to smooth the path of his successors by negotiating the evacuation of that country, has given the Unionist an additional text from which they have not failed to preach. If the cry of separation and disintegation of the United Kingdom had lost some of its power here was a new crop as much more promising than the old one in proportion as the prophecy of losing India, our Colonies, and our maritime supremacy, is more dire even than that which pictures Ireland under all the horrors of Home Rule. Accordingly the sweet voices of the Jingoes have been again heard in the land as in the days of Lord Beaconsfield. The British elector is being again appealed to, in the name of all his country's gods, to show his patriotism by breaking faith with those to whom he has pledged his word, and by retaining his hold of a country of which having been the caretaken, he has an opportunity of making his own by simply committing a breach of trust. All proposals for facilitating the departure of English from Egypt are scorted; neutralisation is scoffed at and guarantees despised, by the advocates of sticking to whatever way by chance fall into their hands. France expresses her desire to join in a plan which would remove all fear of the sole action, on her part which is always insisted on as a prime reason for the British remaining in Egypt. But says the *Saturday Review*. This is not enough for us. No wise Englishman will for a moment accept this as sufficient. First of all it seems, a sort of Utopia must be established in Egypt by us, and we must be ourselves the Judges of when this state of perfection is reached; and time our departure entirely at our own convenience. Even then we cannot go unless it is to be understood that England must not be subject to a common exclusion with other powers. It would have to be, on the contrary, with an understanding that in case of need she, and no other than she, should, except in case of her own refusal, undertake the office of restoring order. Nothing less than this will satisfy Englishmen; nothing less is indeed compatible with the very terms of our original undertaking; says the *Saturday Review*.

The answer to this, and particularly the last clause is given by the "Speaker." Our action in Egypt, inaugurated by Lord Granvilles invitation to the Great Powers to meet in Conference, was purely mandatory; and in his Lordships words was wholly opposed to the preponderating influence of any single power. On that understanding, and that alone, the powers allowed us to interfere to protect the financial interests (to put the matter in its oldest form) which we and they had in common. A conservative argument is that this bond was wiped out by the sacrifices of Tel-el-Kebir and on the bloody battle fields of the London. The reply is that for good or evil nothing of the kind occured. We went simply to restore the status and as between Egypt and the Powers. At the Constantinople Conference they agreed to the signing of a joint self-denying protocol declaring that none of them sought "any territorial advantage, nor any concession, nor any exclusive privilege, any commercial advantage for their subjects other than those which any other relation can equally obtain."

To this by repeated declarations the ministry of Lord Salisbury, as well as the Unionist Party, are pledged. In 1888 for example Mr. Goschen said "We are pledged before Europe not to occupy Egypt permanently that is the distinct pledge we have given. I deny

entirely that there is any obscurity as to the policy of the Government as regards Egypt. I say distinctly that we do not look upon the occupation of Egypt as strengthening the position of this country."

And yet we are told that England's evacuation of Egypt, although the terms of her occupation are as stated above, would mean the lowering of her flag, and the whole world would be spectator of England humbling herself at the feet of France. "The Oriental World" says one writer "would quiver with exultation at the spectacle of the proud nation which dominated from Suez to Hong Kong reduced to her knees before a theatering power, and scuttling out of Egypt, as she did from the Transvaal, and as she is believed to be prepared to do whenever a European sword of strength is raised against her." For an equal combination of folly, falsehood, and dishonesty, it seems to me it would be hard to find a parallel even amongst the sound and fury of the utterances of our Jingo writers. The cynicism and utter disregard of honour and good faith in these appeals to passion, measure the frantic efforts that are being made on the part of them to strengthen their position at the General Election. So much of excuse there is for them.

The "Times" on "the Roof of the World."

How large a space the question of the position of affairs in the Pamirs has been occupying public attention is to be seen by the fact that the *Times* article of this week on Indian Affairs is wholly occupied with its explanation and discussion. It is to be remarked that the writers opinion as to the accessibility of India, by what some journals here have asserted to be not only a practicable but a convenient route to India, is that any army with the appliances of civilized war should reach India by this route is impossible. That Russian intrigues however might render some of the local tribes more troublesome to Kashmir than they would otherwise be, is very probable. This agrees with what I have before mentioned as the less excited view of the matter taken by other writers. Professor Vambery is also quoted to this effect. "As to the possibility of marching an army across the wilderness of Pamir, I dare say even the most sanguine Russian military adventures will consider it twice before he ventures to cross a wholly uninhabited country of high barren mountains and of steep passes available only during a few months in summer, and totally inaccessible during winter. A march along Gourko, feasible in the Balkans is utterly impossible over the high passes, and it is perhaps only a very small detachment of foot hardy adventurers who might try to plunge in the wilderness of the Pamir but whose final result is greatly questionable."

It is consoling after the heated articles which we have had of late that so sensible a view of the situation is taken by the "Times" writer. Quoting the Telugu proverb which asks "can your house be burnt down with hot water" he says it is comforting to hear this apothegm in mind. "In India we have the bellicose British Journalist; at St. Petersburg the skilfully compounded acids of the "*Novoe Vremya*": and the amicable irritants of professor Vambery from Buda Pesth. In the Mangalow duel the combatants have kept up such a rapid firming of rumours and counter rumours, not to speak of the heavier artillery of doubtful historical inferences and geographical claims, that it becomes difficult amid the smoke to get a clear view of the situation." As an example of the heavy artillery, which however is neither rumour, nor history, nor geography, but a large assumption of Russophobism, he speaks of an article of "the leading Journal in North Western India" as laying down a wide major premiss which may lend to foregone conclusions; yet to conclusions not more foregone" than the St. Petersburg Press evolves from its counter assumption of the insatiable earth hunger of the British in Asia. This article embodies the theory, that when General Krapotkin was appointed Governor-General of the Trans-Caspian province it was a foregone conclusion that there would very quickly follow significant indications of Russian activity in Central Asia. "He is one of the most ambitious soldiers in the Czars army: he is wedded to the scheme which Skoheleff believed possible of disturbing British rule in India; and he has about as much respect for a boundary line as a cossack has for a Jew.

Referring to the rumours about the incident of Captain Younghusband the "*Times*" writer says that full materials for deciding this question are now on their way from India; and meanwhile the Anglo-Indian Journals feel quite sure that the English explorer was within his rights, while the St. Petersburg Press takes the same friendly view of the action of the Russian officers—a very good hit at the zealots of both parties. "One fact has already emerged viz., that the party which turned back Captain Younghusband was not of the nature of a Russian expedition enforce. A second fact is emerging, to hit, the approaching necessity of completing the work which was for good reasons at the time, left unfinished by Delimitation Commission of 1884-86. A third inference may be drawn, that the Indian and Russian foreign offices are equally conscious of this necessity, and that both have been preparing for it by explorations to collect the data on which a final settlement may be based." This is a very storry the explanation of what has been causing so much alarm real or pretended. Perhaps both parties want to steal a march upon each other; but they would save us a great deal of trouble if they could by any possibility explian what they were going to be after. A postcard would be all that was necessary; but then what would the leading article writers do! To return to the "Times." A resume of the operations conducted during the last twenty years by England and Russia, shows that, as the former has advanced upon the North Western frontier until one of the most defensible border lands in the world has passed to the British side; so Russia has not only been extending her own sphere of control in Asia during the same period, but she has been working her very steadily along a new line of approach to India far to the north of the old assumed lines through Central Afghanistan. This new line emerges at its Eastern end in the doubtfully demarcated region of lofty steppes known as the Pamirs. The negotiations in 1873 left Afghanistan outsid the sphere of Russian influence. "But Afghanistan claimed the Oxus (or beyond it) as part of her North Eastern boundary; and a principal object of the Delimitation Commission of 1884-86 was to secure that Russia, in her advance eastwards on the line of the Oxus, should not encroach upon Afghan territories, which she had acknowledged to be beyond the sphere of her influence. That Commission was, however, unable to complete its work along the whole border land; and the North Eastern frontier of Afghanistan together with the relations of various Khanates in and around the Pamirs, still awaits an authoritative settlement."

What Russia has been doing the Indian Foreign Office has, also done; and the result has been the tightening of the hands of Kashmir, so that now British control is felt to the Hindu Kush and the southern slopes of the Little Pamir. "The visit of the Viceroy to Kashmir now sets the seal on the policy which the Government of India has adopted towards Kashmir. It is at once a declaration that Kashmir cannot be left to the mischances of native misrule, and a pledge that, in maintaining Kashmir as a strong barrier State, the British Government will respect the dignity of the ruling house, and do its best to perpetuate the dynasty." China has also a history of advances to the Pamirs; and thus it happens that "three of the greatest, yet most widely diverse nations of the earth, have met in one of its most sequestered and least habitable regions. What they are to do now there is a question to be decided, fortunately, not by the heats and jealousies of frontier officers, but by diplomatists in London, St. Petersburg, and Pekin. None of the parties seems to be in a hurry to force on a decision, for each apparently thinks that it is strengthening its position against the time when a decision must be arrived at. They are all aware that the arrangement made in 1893 by the English and Russian Governments was made without sufficient acquaintance with the geographical facts, and one perhaps desire to take advantage of this circumstance. Meanwhile no one is perfectly sure as to which of the headwaters will eventually be held to be the true Upper Oxus; while all know that for local and tribal purposes there is no Upper Oxus; that the name is merely a convenient term of European geography. Each of the three Governments concerned has shown itself sufficiently alive to these facts; each has been active during the last twenty years. Since the arrangement of 1872-73 and since the delimitation of the middle Oxus frontier of Afghanistan in 1884-87. But it is questionable whether even Russia's activity from the Westward has been more effective than Chinas activity from the eastward, or more profitable than England's activity in Baluchistan on the Afghan, Punjab border and in Kashmir."

Medical Opinion on the Rajabai Tower Case.

The "*Lancent*" has a long medical discussion of the case of the two Parsee ladies Buchoobai and Perozebai whose deaths at the Rajabari tower in Bombay was the subject of enquiry there recently and about which there hangs so much mystery. The support of the "Lancet" is given to that view of the case which was taken by the coroners jury upon the first investigation viz., that an outrage had been attempted if not completed, and it disagrees with the view taken of it by the Court of Sessions which upon the evidence of Dr. Smith arrived at the conclusion that the marks attributed to outrage were caused by physical agencies incidental to the fall. This has in opposition tothe evidence of Drs. Divecha and Nadwisha who came to the conclusion that the body of each lady bore the marks of finger nails on such parts as would fit the theory of attempted outrage. But it is pointed out that an exhaustive examination of the clothes of the ladies was not made at the first opportunity for rents and stains, as ought to have been done by any one. Other medical details are too technical, and perhaps hardly proper, to set out, but the conclusion arrived at is that the situation and character of the disputed marks on the body are much more consistent with the theory that they were caused by manual violence than that they resulted from impact with the towers or ground. As regards the more direct evidence of rape it is too meagre and indefinite to form any positive opinion. The absence of known motive to commit suicide, the social position of the ladies taken in conjunction with their age, and lastly the nature of certain injuries to dress and persons, as inferred from the statements presented, lead the "Lancet" to favour the contention that an assault was made upon the unfortunate ladies, and that the "fall" from the tower has either a frantic leap to escape outrage and possible accusations of shame or an impulse given their bodies by some cowardly and malicious assailant or assailants. The article concludes with commendation of the very admirable charge made by the coroner to the jury.

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